House defers action on MPLT line-of-credit bill. PAGE 2
PSS is back-to-back 'Race for Life' champion. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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'Iakopo is next MVA chief'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Commonwealth Health Care Corp. chief financial officer Priscilla Iakopo will be appointed as the next Marianas Visitors Authority managing director, according to a source yesterday.

The MVA board is expected to announce her appointment as managing director during today's proclamation signing for May as Tourism Month, the source added.

Iakopo

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce's response to a

See IAKOPO on Page 4

CHCC now owes CUC $27.7M

» CHCC's monthly utilities billing is $400K, but can pay only $71K a month

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s monthly utility bill totals $400,000, but it can only afford to pay the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. just $71,000 a month, resulting in a debt that has now ballooned to $27.7 million.

At a CUC board meeting last

See CHCC on Page 4

HOMESTEAD LOTTERY
A participant in last Thursday's homestead lottery signs a document after receiving her assigned lot at the Department of Public Land's conference room in Dandan. Homestead Division director Irene Torres said there will be another lottery within this year. JON PEREZ

Poker robbery suspect pleads not guilty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Artemia Gabayeron pleaded not guilty yesterday to charges that she robbed a poker arcade over two weeks ago.

Gabayeron, 51, through Stephanie Boutsicaris of the Office of the Public Defender, submitted a plea of not guilty before Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Gabayeron

Bouticaris waived the reading of charges and constitutional right of Gabayeron while still preserving all her rights.

Heather Barcinas, acting chief prosecutor and lawyer for the government, had no complaints.

Naraja ordered Gabayeron to return to court on June 5 at 9am for a status conference.

Gabayeron remains in prison after she failed to post the $20,000 bail.

The Superior Court set the bail last April 15.

See POKER on Page 4

Brown sees rosy future for IPI

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

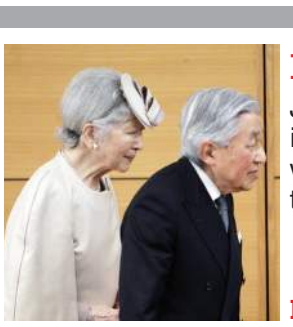
Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LCC is optimistic the Hong Kong-based company would regain investors' confidence following last week's deal with the Department of Public Land that allows it to take over management and operations of the old Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi.

The casino developer also expects a hundred H-2B workers from Taiwan and Thailand to arrive every month starting in May to finish the construction of the Imperial Palace Saipan in Garapan.

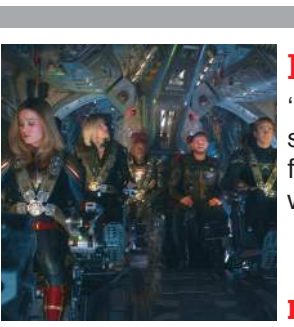
See BROWN on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Bank of Guam has donated $15,000 for the 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic.
PAGE 6



FOCUS
Japan's imperial family is relatively small and will shrink further in the coming years.
PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE
"Avengers: Endgame" shattered the record for biggest opening weekend.
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Local

JON PEREZ
House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), left, talks to floor leader Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan) during a recess in yesterday's session at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

House defers action on MPLT line-of-credit bill

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI House of Representatives postponed action yesterday on a bill that would establish a credit facility with the Marianas Public Lands Trust.

The House was scheduled to act on House Bill 21-44 yesterday but chose to delay it and wait for the outcome of a scheduled meeting today between MPLT and the Torres administration.

In creating a line of credit with MPLT, H.B. 21-44 seeks to help the CNMI government meet its bond obligations and fund payment to the NMI Settlement Fund.

House floor leader Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan) said the MPLT board will be meeting today—where Gov. Ralph DLG Torres or a representative is expected to also attend—at 4:30pm at the MPLT conference room on Capital Hill.

"After that, we can have more information regarding the bill. We will leave it [H.B. 21-44] in the bill calendar until our next session," said Sablan.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) introduced the measure last week.

Acting Finance secretary David Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* that H.B. 21-44 would help the CNMI government's financial situation, especially in meeting its mandated payment obligation in the stipulation order for the Settlement Fund and the general obligation bond payment due on May 1.

"I proposed to repay the line of credit with [Federal Emergency Management Agency] reimbursements and general fund collections," Atalig said, and the bill proposes to use as the collateral or guarantee future interest due the CNMI from MPLT.

In yesterday's House session, Attao said H.B. 21-44 is the Legislature's response to help the CNMI government, especially with the islands recovering from its losses from Super Typhoon Yutu last October.

"We're preparing ourselves for what types of solution we can come up with it in order to cushion the damage from our losses," he said.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the House should seek additional information from Torres and Atalig regarding the planned line of credit. "So we could get more answers to some of our questions. But it is good to know MPLT and the administration will be meeting to iron out the details. We need to hear from all of them and we need to do this right. It is our understanding that MPLT has some amendments that they would like."

In an earlier interview, Attao said that H.B. 21-44 would get money circulating within the community. "If we are able to get that line of credit, we can put the money into the Settlement Fund and bond obligations for the next couple of months. The money will trickle down to various accounts so we can drawdown and start paying vendors, and even overtime."

Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) also welcomes the idea of a line of credit and said the Senate is ready to discuss and act on H.B. 21-44 as soon as the House passes it. "It is not a bad idea to do the line of credit in the event we are hit again with another unforeseen disaster."

DPS responds to 80 calls

This past weekend the CNMI Department of Public Safety responded to 80 calls on Saipan and made 14 arrests.

From 11pm on Friday, April 26, through 11pm on Sunday, April 28—a 48-hour period—DPS responded to 911 calls and were dispatched to 80 different calls that included auto-related incidents, civil matter, criminal mischief, criminal trespass, disturbing the peace, domestic violence, driving under the influence, injured person, stolen vehicles, and theft.

DPS would like to remind the public not to hesitate when calling 911. Dispatchers and officers are standing by to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public. ***(PR)***

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Shigellosis outbreak in Guam continues to be a problem

The Department of Public Health and Social Services in Guam continues to monitor an outbreak of Shigellosis on the island. In only four months in 2019, Guam has already reached one-half of the total number of cases from all of last year.

In 2018, a total of 29 cases of Shigellosis were reported (with 23 cases or 79 percent confirmed). So far in 2019, a total of 15 cases have been reported (with 53 percent confirmed).

Approximately two-thirds (66.6 percent) of the 2019 cases involved children who have been taken to the emergency rooms for treatment with some being hospitalized.

Five of the 15 cases are children less than 5 years old; another five cases are among children less than 15 years old and the other five are adults.

The public is asked to be vigilant about hygiene and sanitation, especially for people living in crowded housing situations or housing where there is a lack of indoor plumbing and where contact with fecal matter is possible.

Shigellosis is an infectious disease caused by a group of bacteria called Shigella. Most individuals who are infected with Shigella develop diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps starting a day or two after they are exposed to the bacteria. Shigellosis usually resolves in five to seven days. Some people who are infected may have no symptoms at all, but may still pass the Shigella bacteria to others. The spread of Shigella can be stopped by frequent and careful handwashing with soap and taking other hygiene measures.

People usually get sick from Shigella bacteria after putting something in their mouth or swallowing something that has come into contact with the stool of someone who is sick from Shigella bacteria. There is no vaccine to prevent shigellosis. However, you can reduce your chance of getting shigellosis by:

1. Carefully washing your hands with soap and water during key times:

■ Before eating or preparing food for others; or

■ After changing a diaper or helping to clean another person who went to the bathroom.

■ If you care for a child in diapers who has diarrhea, promptly throw away soiled diapers in a covered, lined garbage can.

■ Wash your hands and the child's hands carefully with soap and water immediately after changing the diapers. Clean up any leaks or spills of diaper contents immediately.

2. Avoid swallowing water from ponds, lakes, or untreated swimming pools.

3. When traveling internationally, follow safe food and water guidelines and wash hands often with soap and water.

4. Avoid sexual activity with those who have diarrhea or who recently (several weeks) recovered from shigellosis.

If you are sick with shigellosis, you can prevent others from getting sick by:

1. Washing hands often, especially

■ Before preparing food or eating; and

■ After using the bathroom or after changing diapers

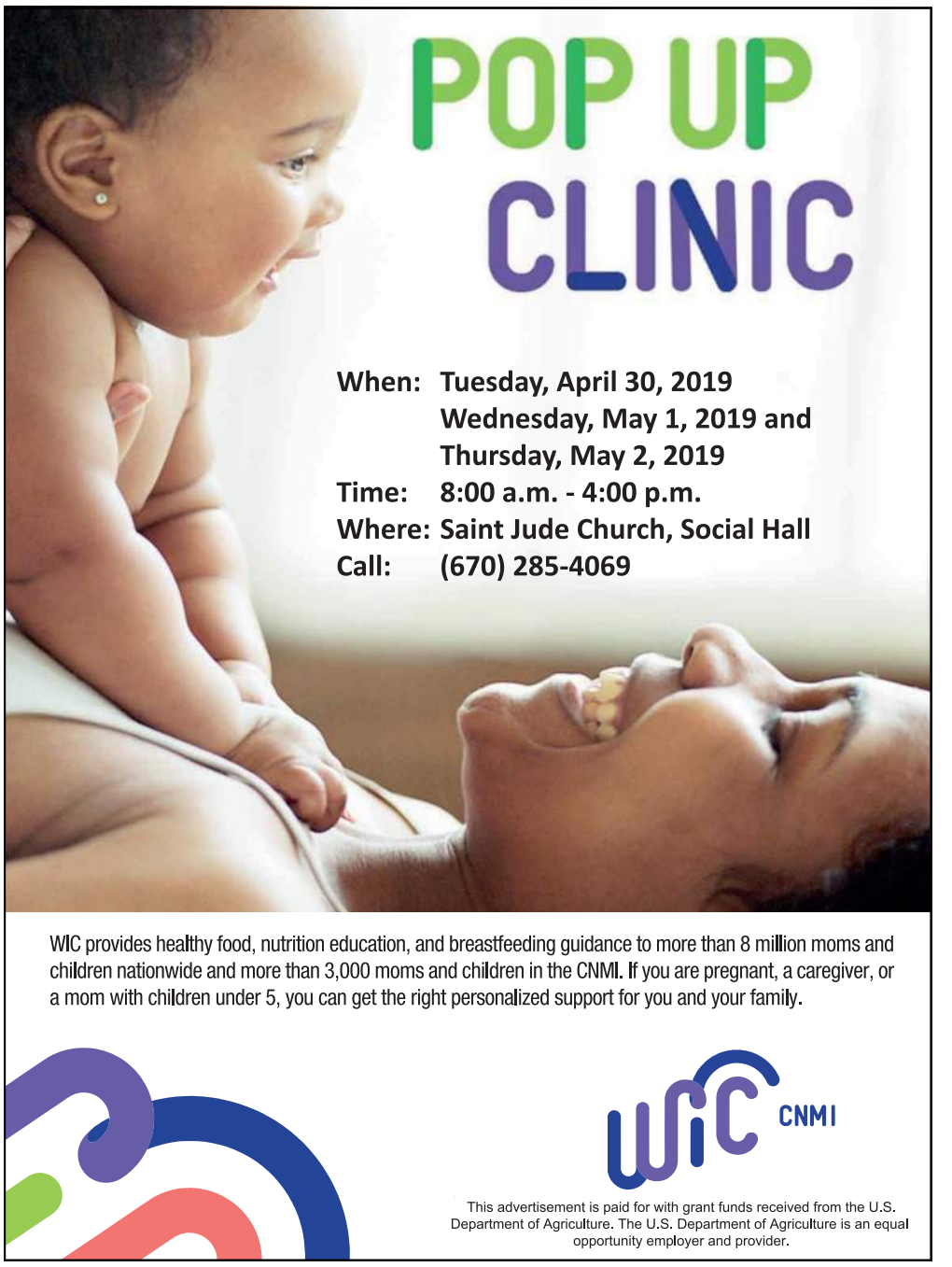
2. NOT preparing food if you are sick.

3. NOT sharing food with anyone who is sick.

4. NOT swimming.

5. NOT having sex (vaginal, anal, and oral) for one week after you no longer have diarrhea. Because Shigella germs may be in the stool for several weeks, follow safe sexual practices or, ideally, avoid having sex for several weeks after you have recovered.

6. Staying home from school or from healthcare, food service, or childcare jobs while sick or until your health care provider says it is safe to return. ***(PR)***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Man pleads not guilty to threatening cop with knife

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who allegedly attempted to assault a police officer with a knife pleaded not guilty yesterday to all the charges.

Daniel Jake Kaipat, 26, offered a plea of not guilty through his lawyer, Office of the Public Defender's Stephanie Boutsicaris, before Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Kaipat is facing charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, resisting arrest, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

Naraja ordered Kaipat to return to court for a status conference on June 4.

Kaipat allegedly swung a knife at a Department of Public Safety officer who was trying to disarm him last April 9.

On that day, police had responded to a disturbing-the-peace complaint at the Marine Beach in Kagman 3 at about 8:21am.

At the scene, police met with the callers, Kaipat's brother and mother, Marciano Kaipat and Josepha Kaipat, who warned police that Kaipat had been inhaling butane fumes and had a knife.

Josepha Kaipat tried to convince her son to give her the knife but Kaipat allegedly refused and pointed the blade tip at her and threatened to stab and kill her.

Police then stepped in and allegedly tried several times to convince Kaipat to cooperate with them but he would not comply and drop the knife.

One of the officers then used pepper spray on Kaipat, who responded by swinging the knife at him. The officer managed to disarm Kaipat with his baton, while another officer restrained Kaipat and brought him to the Department of Corrections.

Marciano later told police that he and Kaipat got into an altercation about a guitar earlier that day and Kaipat used his head to hit Mariano's head, choked him, and pushed him.

Kaipat remains in custody after he failed to post the cash bail of $10,000.

Aldan: Marpo Heights project to push through

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ
Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan explains to House members the urgent need to pass House Bill 21-37, House Draft 1 during a House session early this month.

Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan assured that the project to improve and pave the roads at Marpo Heights II subdivision in his municipality would push through, once a bill that would re-appropriate those funds is enacted by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Rep. Antonio SN Borja's (R-Tinian) House Bill 21-37 would re-appropriate $1.09 million for Tinian to help fund the payroll of the municipality's employees.

H.B. 21-37 already passed the House and awaits action at the Senate.

The $1 million was originally allocated for the improvement and pavement of roads at Marpo Heights II while $90,000 was to be used for 10 FTEs for the Tinian office of the Department of Public Safety.

Under Borja's H.B.21-37, the money would be used for the personnel and operations of municipality of Tinian, the Tinian Municipal Treasury employees, the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission personnel and operations, and the Tinian Mayor's Office.

Aldan assured that the re-appropriation would not affect the Marpo Heights project. "It is not that we're going to abandon the project at all. The project will continue to move on and Marpo Heights will be paved," said Aldan, who added that CIP funds would be the source of the money. "The intent of those [CIP] funds are to build power, water, roads, and sewer. This funding is not restricted to CIP; it could be used for personnel, programs, and infrastructure."

"But now, this is the only way that we can secure a big amount of funds that would last all the way to the end of fiscal year 2019 or more, if we do some austerity measures and cuts."

Aldan said that even during his last term at the Legislature, the Tinian leadership was looking for ways to appropriate the money. "Before my last term at the House, we passed a $1 million appropriation that was supposed to carry whatever burden that we are going through in the municipality."

"That did not happen. Funds were not yet available at that time, so then we started doing smaller appropriations."

He said that H.B. 21-37 would address the lack of funding the municipality is experiencing right now. "We are running out of [funds] and I'm just worried that funds would not be available when the time comes for their paycheck. The payroll would last within the month of May. So, with the passage and if the governor would sign it into law, it would be enough to bring them to the end of fiscal year 2019."

Aldan added that acting Finance secretary David Atalig assured him that the money is still there. "There was a certification of funds that was produced by the Finance acting secretary, showing that the funds are still there and certified by him. I'm not going to get the whole $1 million check; it will be drawn down weekly or biweekly, based on the municipal's needs."

IAKOPO

From Page 1

request for comments about the appointment of the managing director.

Iakopo was hired as CFO of CHCC, then was subsequently assigned to CHCC's procurement office.

It was not immediately clear if she has a prior background in the tourism industry.

Christopher Attao Concepcion resigned as managing director last March 12. When Concepcion's last day of office took effect last April 12, Aldan-Pierce appointed MVA deputy managing director Judy C. Torres as acting MVA chief.

Iakopo's ascent as MVA chief will come at a challenging time, with the CNMI rebuilding the Japan market with the entry of Skymark Airlines, the weakened Korea market, which suffered after the CNMI figured in international news in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year, and a comparatively weaker China market.

CHCC

From Page 1

week, CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho disclosed that, according to CHCC, it can only afford to pay CUC $71,000 a month at this time because of other obligations they must meet.

Yet even that is apparently a problem. Camacho said it is his understanding that CHCC has not made payment, "not even the $71,000."

"It's challenging and the discussion was made. It is imperative that we recover our costs," he said.

Citing internal CHCC computations, Camacho said that CHCC's $71,000 is "all they have left in the pot."

"But their usage is easily over $400,000 a month," he added.

He said CUC is diligent about disconnecting residential and commercial customers and that CUC has worked out different arrangements with other agencies that also have outstanding debts.

He underscored the need to be creative to work something out to collect the receivables but CHCC "can only be creative up to $71,000."

"So again, everybody is going to have to pay that bill at some point. Believe me it's [going to] be an issue in our audit. It's [going to] be an issue with the [House Public Utilities and Communications Committee]," Camacho said.

CUC board treasurer Matthew Holley said CHCC is supposed to be making payments of $400,000 a month and is the one who came up with the $71,000 per-month payment plan.

Last March, CUC reported that CHCC owes the utilities agency $27,412,615, with its past due going back four years.

POKER

From Page 1

Gabayeron is facing multiple charges, including robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

Gabayeron was allegedly caught on surveillance footage robbing the Royal Poker gaming arcade in Oleai last April 11. Gabayeron was reportedly seen entering the arcade and leaving after robbing the female cashier of exactly $649. She allegedly threatened her at knifepoint.

The suspect allegedly walked into the establishment between 6:30am and 6:45am after security guard had left and made sure that there were no other people inside the establishment before proceeding with the robbery.

The suspect called the cashier for assistance first before forcing her way into the cashier's area and holding the cashier at knifepoint.

A short struggle occurred before the suspect was able to open the cash register and grab a handful of cash valued at $649.

The suspect then fled the establishment, going south toward Oleai.

Gabayeron was apprehended two days later at her home.

Court information mentions that a human resources representative from a Susupe hotel where she worked at helped police identify Gabayeron through photos from the surveillance footage, confirming that it was, in fact, Gabayeron and directed police to Gabayeron's residence in As Terlaje.

Aside from identification by her employer, Gabayeron was also identified by the victim in a six-person lineup.

BROWN

From Page 1

These two recent developments were described by IPI CEO and president Mark Brown as all the pieces finally coming together for the embattled company.

"We just had over 300 investors on island. We basically flew them all ourselves. … We put them all up at the Fiesta [Resort & Spa Saipan], Hyatt [Regency Saipan] and we've had an all-day function at the [old] Sandcastle in Hyatt where we did presentations about the island, [the] Marpi land, and all of our investors are excited," he said.

"…A lot of good news are coming out of what's happening right now. We've had a lot of bad news and sad news that's been going on… so this…[will] hopefully give everybody a jolt and help move forward with our plan," he added.

Brown said that they are looking forward to having customers back on island. "They help create revenue for the casino, which generates more taxes for the island, which is the goal."

"We are getting 100 workers a week to work on the projects and…I am excited we are bringing all people here," he added.

Brown was at the helm of IPI when it opened Best Sunshine Live in 2015; he eventually focused on day-to-day operations as IPI chair. He then stepped down from his post in December 2017 but came back in October last year. He said his return is premised on the idea of helping the company get back on track, after it got sidetracked by other issues.

Brown knows it is not an easy road to make profit, create jobs, and get the company back on track.

"When you run a company this big, there are areas where you are constantly looking at the 'now.' Our 'now' is we are looking at how many people are available and can work. It's just how you operate every casino and every big business in the world.

"I know it's going to be rough because the island right now is still healing from the typhoon [Yutu]. …I feel like you need all the help that you can get…That's why I pointed out when the dealers left, we went to the locals first and asked who wants to come back as we understand that they had to go home to help their family rebuild. …We brought 55 to 57 dealers back and, again, we plan to bring back whoever is here when we can because we need them," he added.

‘Ice’ maker gets 7 years, 3 months in prison sentence

The federal court sentenced a man to seven years and three months in prison yesterday after he pleaded guilty to conspiring with other to make the drug methamphetamine using the so-called shake-and-bake method.

Sidney Capelle Kani was sentenced to 40 months for conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine, plus 47 months for the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine on premises where a child is present and resides.

This means a total sentence of 87 months in prison—or seven years and three months.

He was given credit for time already served in prison since his arrest last year.

As part of his sentence, he will be made to undergo drug rehabilitation, an educational program, anger management, and alcohol abuse counseling while in prison.

Upon release, he will be on supervised release for three years.

As a further condition of his supervised release, Kani must participate in a substance abuse treatment program, refrain from the use of any alcoholic beverages, and perform 100 hours of community service. He was ordered to pay $100 in special assessment fee.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the U.S. government’s motion to drop the remaining two charges against Kani.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe had recommended a sentence of 78 months in prison. Colin Thompson, the court-appointed counsel for Kani, recommended imprisonment of 70 months.

Kani pleaded guilty in May 2018.

In his sentencing recommendation, Backe said that Kani admitted that, over a two-month span, he obtained numerous items “to use to make meth” which he, along with the other conspirators, “would smoke, as well as sell and/or give to other people.”

Backe said that Kani admitted to acting as a middleman for a drug deal on Feb. 1, 2018.

In his admissions, Kani said that, between July 1, 2017, and Feb. 25, 2018, his co-defendants—Vincent David Cabrera Jr., Eugene Blas Repeki Jr., and Rick Urumelog Omar Jr.—along with others, agreed to manufacture and distribute meth.

Beginning at least Jan. 1, 2018, Kani knew of the group’s agreement to make and distribute meth and that he joined in the agreement.

The remaining defendants also pleaded guilty.

Last March 15, Manglona sentenced Cabrera and co-defendant Eugene Blas Repeki Jr. to 15 years imprisonment each. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

OPD wants prosecution stopped from having proposed experts testify in case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Defender wants the Superior Court to exclude from testifying in a murder case any experts proposed by the CNMI government who have not been designated at this point because the prosecution has allegedly provided no notice to the defense of such experts.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, counsel for Alfonso Sebastian Parongan, said those precluded from testifying include any medical, psychological, and law enforcement witnesses that the government intends to call as experts.

The Office of the Attorney General has charged Parongan with the murder of his landlord. He allegedly repeatedly stabbed her in Chalan Kanoa in 2017. The landlord’s husband was also injured in the attack.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will hear hear Parongan’s motion to exclude improperly noticed and unnoticed expert testimony on May 15.

Zona said that Parongan served the OAG last Nov. 9, 2017, with a request for the prosecution to provide “the name, qualifications and a written summary of the testimony of any person that the prosecution intends to call as an expert witness.”

Zona said the court set April 17, 2019, as the due date for the designation of expert witnesses.

Zona said that allowing expert evidence to be admitted without notice will promote unfair surprise at trial, compromise Parongan’s right to cross-examination, and his rights to due process and a fair trial.

Zona said that, without any notice of the nature of expert testimony, Parongan will be extremely prejudiced by the introduction of such “expert” evidence against him at trial.

The defense counsel said Parongan cannot determine whether he needs to present a defense, is unable to determine what that defense might be in response to expert testimony, and cannot retain his own expert in a short time to rebut whatever it is that the government’s experts say.

She said Parongan is indigent and approval for any expert and payment of fees would need to be approved first by the court.

“Retaining an expert on such short notice to testify in the CNMI would no doubt prove difficult, if not impossible,” Zona said, adding that allowing the government to have experts who have not been named prior to trial will deny Parongan a fair opportunity to prepare his defense, which is his right.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

GCC board meeting set

The Guam Community College board of trustees monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 12pm, in the President’s Conference Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, GCC campus. Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services should contact 735-5597. ***(PR)***

JKPL, Bookmobile closed for inventory

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and Bookmobile Outreach Services will be closed for five days for inventory, from May 14 to 18, 2019. All penalties for items due during this period will be waived. We ask the public for your cooperation in utilizing library programs and services in the days not covered by inventory.

For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library’s website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL’s Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyu, Pinterest @ Joeten Kiyu, and Snapchat @JoetenKiyu. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library’s hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. ***(PR)***

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EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
IT&E

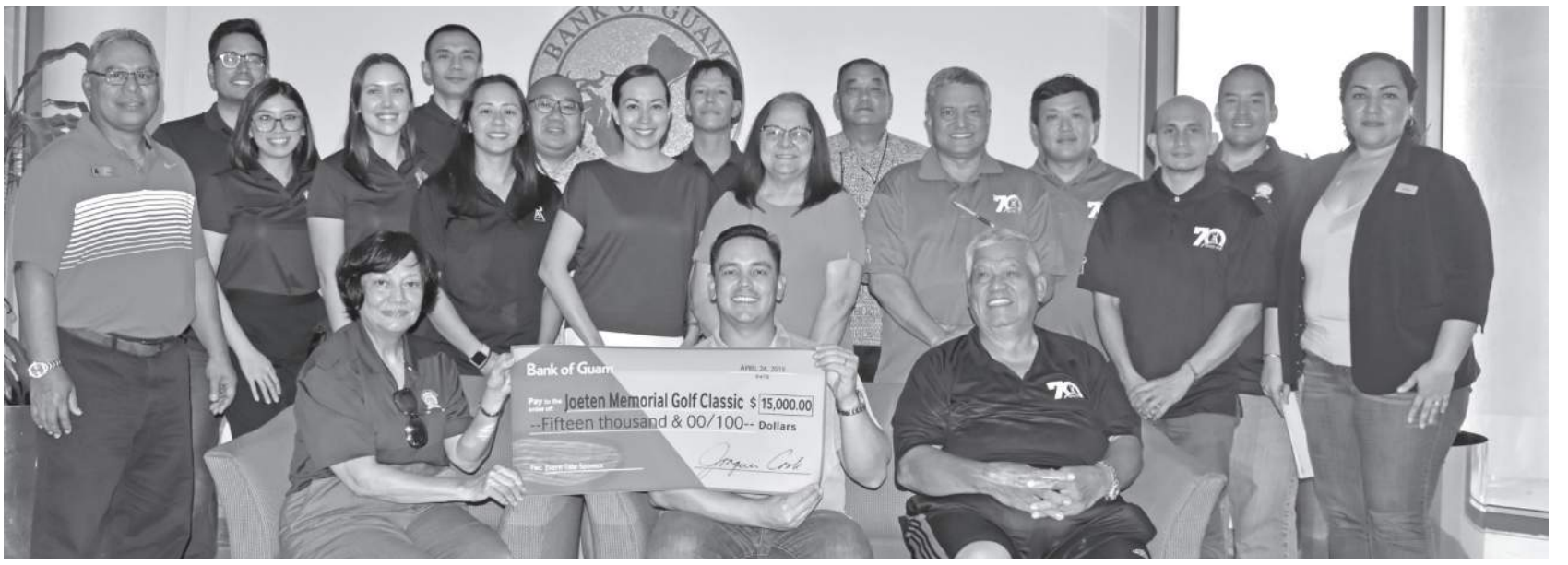
Bank of Guam donates $15K for Joeten golf tourney

Bank of Guam has donated $15,000 for the 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic, making the company a title sponsor of the tournament that will be held on June 22 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer Joaquin Cook handed the ceremonial check to Joeten Enterprises president Annie T. Sablan and other Joeten executives last Friday at the Bank of Guam, Garapan branch. Bank of Guam executives and family members and officers of the Joeten Daidai Foundation were also present at the turnover ceremony.

"We see this opportunity for the bank to support a good cause and support a good partner and long-time family friend in Joeten Enterprises. Bank of Guam has corporate responsibilities and we are happy and proud that we are in position where we could give back and find ways to help the community. Our company is founded on the values of helping the community we serve," said Cook.

The 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic is a fundraising event for the Joeten Daidai Foundation, which supports various community and outreach programs in the CNMI, particularly education.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer Joaquin Cook, center, hands the $15,000 ceremonial check to Joeten Enterprises president Annie T. Sablan, seated left, and other Joeten executives last Friday at the Bank of Guam office in Garapan. The donation is for the 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic that will be held on June 22 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

"Our grandfather (Jose "Joeten" Camacho Tenorio) encouraged all of us to go to school. At Joeten, we want to invest in education. That's how you run the economy. You get the youth education and encourage them to come back and help build the workforce, build the economy," said 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic tournament director Peter "Dung" Tenorio.

The Joeten Daidai Foundation gives scholarship to seven college students every year, according to one of its directors, Patty McDonald. The foundation also helps Karidat, the Commonwealth Cancer Association/Marianas March Against Cancer, and other groups.

The foundation is hoping to raise more than $100,000 from the 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic, which is also being held as part of the celebration of Joeten's 70th anniversary.

"This golf tournament is a special event because we are having it as we celebrate our 70th year. Not too many companies, especially local ones, are able to reach this milestone, so we want to celebrate it with our business partners like Bank of Guam, friends, vendors, and other supporters who have been with us through the years," Tenorio said.

"We are truly grateful to all supporters of Joeten Daidai Foundation because with their help, we are able to continue serving back our island, our home. We hope to continue making a difference in people's lives," McDonald said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Submarine 15 sailors join Inarajan cleanup

INARAJAN, Guam—Sailors assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 partnered with the command's sister village of Inarajan during a cleanup last April 26.

The collaborative cleanup effort, which was inspired by Earth Day, was an opportunity for the sailors to engage with the residents of Inarajan and foster relationships between the military and local community.

"I think it's very important that we work together as a team to keep our island beautiful," said Inarajan Mayor Doris Lujan. "The military always comes with their assistance and we really appreciate all the efforts they provide for us."

There were more than 40 volunteers whose efforts produced 50 bags of trash and multiple larger items such as tires, pieces of metal, branches, and stone benches. Sailors and community members picked up trash along the coastal line, roadways and near the Inarajan natural swimming pool.

"The cleanup was a wonderful experience," said Legalman 1st Class Stacy Oglesby, a volunteer from CSS-15. "Our squadron came together with our sister village to do our part in celebrating Earth Day. It was a great opportunity, and I loved working side by side with the community of Inarajan."

The mayor's office provided refreshments for volunteers and extended an invitation for the squadron to attend the community's upcoming coconut festival.

"On behalf of the community of Inarajan and the mayor's office and staff, I would like to say thank you for helping our village and celebrating Earth Day with us," said Lujan. "This is really great for the community and the partnership we have with the submarine squadron."

CSS-15 is located at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam in Piti, Guam, and consists of four Los Angeles-class attack submarines. The squadron staff is responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support to these commands. Also based out of Naval Base Guam are submarine tenders USS *Frank Cable* and USS *Emory S. Land*. The submarines and tenders are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed submarine force and are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements. ***(Submarine Squadron 15)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority
2nd Floor Rm. 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-2682; Fax: (670) 664-2692; Email: alfreda.camacho@gov.mp

Office of the Governor
"Driving You Forward"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) would like to notify the general public that COTA, has amended its 4-Year Federal-Aid Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

A copy of the plan can be obtained at the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority. Written comments must be submitted directly to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, Suite 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan or via email to: alfreda.camacho@gov.mp no later than May 16, 2019, 2:00 pm.

Any questions, please contact Mr. Diego Songsong, COTA Community Planner, at (670)664-2682.
The following are listed in the TIP:

I. Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Amended Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)
PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY 2017 FEDERAL	FY 2018 FEDERAL	FY 2019 FEDERAL	FY 2020 FEDERAL
	SAIPAN	ALL	COTA Administrative Building & Maintenance Facility	PE Design	$224,000.00			
				Construction			$3,500,000.00	
				CM			$590,000.00	
	SAIPAN	ALL	Purchase of Twelve (12) Medium-Duty ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Bus for the Fixed Route				$2,162,292.00	
	SAIPAN		Purchase of four (4) ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Van for the Demand Response				$399,980.00	
	SAIPAN		Supply, Installation of Bus Stop Signboard and Construction of COTA Transit (Bus) Pads	Construction	$120,000.00			$30,000.00
	SAIPAN	ALL	Supply, Installation of thirty seven (37) Fixed Route Bus Stop Shelters	Construction			$1,009,500.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION					**$344,000.00**		**$7,661,772.00**	**$30,000.00**

/S/ Alfreda P. Camacho, Special Assistant for Public Transportation

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 664-3200/1
Fax: (670) 664-3237
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www.mymarianas.com

The Marianas
Sights | Tastes | Times | Rates

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Friday, May 3, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.** in the Tinian Mayor's Office Conference Room, Tinian, MP 96952.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes
      a. Regular Board Meeting – March 12, 2019

2) **Public Comments**

3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance –
      a. Fund Status Report - April 2019
      b. FY2018 Audit Report

4) **New Business**
   1. Integrity Communications Contract Renewal
   2. LJ's Lawn Care Services Contract Renewal
   3. Flame Tree TV and Production Co. Contract Renewal
   4. Bank Signatories and Savings Account

5) **Executive Session**
   1. MVA Off-Shore Offices
   2. Appointment of Managing Director

6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

All twelve teams that participated in IT&E's annual Race for Life scavenger hunt fundraiser last Sunday pose for a photo.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

PSS is back-to-back 'Race for Life' champion

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System team remains the team to beat in IT&E's Race for Life scavenger hunt, beating out 11 other teams to emerge champion last Sunday morning.

PSS' team of five, called "You Gon Learn Today," won the championship trophy in the 2nd Annual Race for Life despite a drastic change in the race itself and a bunch of new rules.

According to team spokesperson Brandon San Nicolas, patience and trust in one another was key to their success.

"Because this is our second race, we were just patient, we didn't rush into things, we understood it was better to be safe and we trusted our instincts and our driver and our whole team. We all had different strengths and we all helped each other," he said.

San Nicolas said that their focus wasn't winning, especially since they were the last of 12 teams to leave the base along Airport Road.

"We realized where we would catch up and our strong points and we didn't worry too much about being last. Instead, we focused on where we could catch up," he said.

San Nicolas and his teammates—Jessica Estrada, Bobby Coldeen, A.J. Mendoza, and Ben Jones Jr.—split $5,000 worth of in-kind prizes among themselves.

"I just want to thank IT&E for putting up another successful event for all the participating teams and we're just grateful to be a part of this and we were able to support such a great cause," he said.

Coming in at second place was team Chupachups sponsored by Mayhan Industries. The team took home more than $750 worth of gift certificates.

Team DFS took the Best Spirit award and they won $500 worth of gift certificates and donations also from various businesses.

The "Race for Life" was able to raise about $4,000 for the upcoming Marianas March Against Cancer.

The Public School System team "You Gon Learn Today" pose for a photo after being named the champions of the 2nd Annual Race for Life scavenger hunt last Sunday organized by IT&E.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

This year, according to IT&E marketing manager Natasha Tomokane, IT&E improved the race by incorporating a lot more of their technological services.

"We felt like last year we set a threshold for how competitive we wanted each of the challenges to be. A lot of the participants noted that it was a little easy and they got done on time, so this year we made it a little more technology-related to our services," she said.

Instead of finding ribbons, each of the 12 groups were given Shell locations where they would find QR codes to scan. After scanning, the code would generate coordinates that would lead to a location where a task was to be done and documented for proof and sent to the remaining member of the team at the base.

Proceeds from the Race for Life event will go to the Marianas March Against Cancer and is part of IT&E's fundraisers for the upcoming event.

"…We know it was a Sunday, it's family day, but… we're very happy with the outcome," she said.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TWO SLUDGE DEWATERING EQUIPMENT'S

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the purchase of two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's; one for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-020, Supply and Delivery of Two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than May 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CHLORINE GAS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Chlorine Gas for Saipan, Tinian & Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-019, Supply & Delivery of Chlorine Gas"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 17, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 1, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CNMI helps celebrate Law Day

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All branches of the CNMI government were represented last Friday during the signing of the CNMI Law Day proclamation at the Saipan Aging Office.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios represented the CNMI Executive Branch; Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) and House Speaker Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao (R-saipan) represented the Legislature; and Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Associate Justice Perry B. Inos represented the Judiciary.

This year's proclamation theme is "Free speech, free press, and free society."

Besides the heads of the three branches, Rep. Luis John "L.J." Castro (R-Saipan), Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan), Superior Court Judge Kenneth Govendo, and U.S. District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also attended the proclamation signing.

KEVIN CALIBO

Seated from left, CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), and House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) join Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, seated sixth from left, sign the proclamation declaring CNMI Law Day last Friday at the Office on Aging.

In an interview, Torres noted that recognizing the law is as equally important as recognizing the media, which was mentioned several times during the proclamation signing.

"Freedom here is not [limited to] freedom of speech and religion, but the freedom of life itself," he said. "It's not just for citizens; everyone on American soil is protected."

"…It is free for you to ask questions, and it is free to say whatever you want to say within certain restriction, and so we are here to give appreciation to the fact that it was written out as a national recognition day back in 1958," Torres noted.

The U.S. mainland recognizes May 1, 2019, as National Law Day, where the rule of law is celebrated nationwide.

In other countries, according to Torres, there are people deprived of what is considered basic human and civil rights.

UOG'S 40TH PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE SERIES

UOG to host panel to discuss history of law on Guam

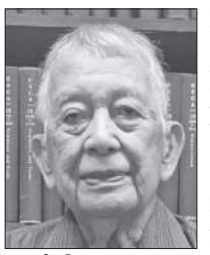
The University of Guam will welcome a special law panel for its 40th presentation of its Presidential Lecture Series on Thursday, May 2, at 6pm, in the CLASS Lecture Hall on the UOG campus.

The panel is being presented in celebration of Guam Law Week with the theme "Evolving Liberty: Guam 75 Years Later."

The panelists are U.S. Magistrate Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan Jr. of the District Court of Guam, lawyer Joaquin C. Arriola Sr., and Attorney General Leevin Taitano Camacho. The panel will be moderated by lawyer Hanna Gutierrez Arroyo.

The panel is presented in collaboration with the Judiciary of Guam, District Court of Guam, and Guam Bar Association.

Manibusan



Arriola

Camacho

About the panel

Manibusan is serving his second eight-year term as U.S. magistrate judge of the District Court of Guam, a position appointed by the chief judge that he has held since 2004.

Prior to his appointment, he served as a judge in the Superior Court of Guam, a designated district judge for the District Court of Guam, a designated justice for the Superior Court of Guam, and a pro tem judge for the Northern Mariana Islands.

He began his legal career as assistant attorney general of Guam from 1975-1977, then spent time in private practice, where he served as legal counsel to various government of Guam boards and agencies.

Manibusan holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a juris doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley.

Arriola has been a practicing attorney in Guam for more than 65 years through his private practice, Arriola, Cowan, & Arriola. He also served the public sector starting in 1954 as senator for four terms and counsel of the Guam legislature for four terms.

Manibusan has been admitted throughout his career to practice before the U.S. District Courts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, the Supreme Court and Superior Court of the Marianas, the Supreme Court of the State of Minnesota, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Arriola holds a bachelor's degree from St. Thomas College in Minnesota and a juris doctorate from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Camacho is the current attorney general of Guam. Prior to being elected to the office in 2018, he spent 12 years in private practice. During that time, Camacho handled more than 100 criminal cases and more than 15 Supreme Court of Guam appeals, assisted the governments of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in reviewing complex environmental impact studies, litigated several land rights and environmental justice cases, and served as local counsel in a national lawsuit seeking to extend voting rights to U.S. citizens living in the territories.

Camacho holds a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of Washington and a law degree from Boston University. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 30, 2001

Anti-drug inspection beefed up

The CNMI Division of Customs has stepped up its anti-drug campaign by increasing the number of personnel deployed in several ports of entry to conduct surveillance and inspection of baggage. On Tinian, customs officers are seen conducting random inspection on arriving passengers including visiting tourists to check hand-carry bags and packages for possible entry of illegal drugs on island. Sniffing dogs are stationed at the San Jose Harbor on Tinian to detect uncontrolled substance possibly in possession of arriving visitors and residents through the ferry. The immediate call for action was necessitated by the recent arrest of three Japanese tourists who tried to sneak in some 40 grams of crystal metamphetamine or "ice" with a street value of $60,000nti-drug campaign.

House body reviewing anti-prostitution bill

The House Committee on Health and Welfare is now refining the amended version of the existing anti-sex trade law, which was conceived due to reports of widespread prostitution practices especially at the Western Garapan district. Rep. Malua T. Peter said her committee is strictly reviewing the proposed amendment to ensure that concerns raised by the Commonwealth's law enforcement agencies are properly addressed. Ms. Peter said all proposals, including those that came from business organizations and the Department of Public Safety, were carefully considered for inclusion in the amended version of the anti-prostitution law. She said the House of Representatives is hoping to act on the measure swiftly to prevent proliferation of sex trade in the Northern Marianas, which has may soon adversely taint the islands' image as a family-oriented, wholesome tourist destination.

April 30, 2005

'Probe firearm permits'

The Department of Public Safety issued at least 20 firearms permits this year without imposing the required safety education class, according to Saipan Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, who is now pushing for a legislative probe on the matter. Tebuteb, during a session Thursday, called on the House Committee on Judicial and Government Operations to look into the alleged violation of Public Law 14-51, which requires a mandatory firearm safety education class to all gun owner applicants. "The information I gathered is that DPS issued out permits, about 20 of them, without requiring applicants to attend the mandatory class," said the congressman, who authored House Bill 14-209, which became P.L. 14-51. In an interview, Tebuteb said he got the information from DPS itself.

PSS to study feasibility of La Fiesta high school

The decision of the Board of Education to approve the Office of the Governor's proposal to use a portion of the La Fiesta Mall as a new junior and senior high school in the CNMI is stalled for the moment The board voted last week during a special meeting at the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning Center at the Marianas High School that they will need three months to study and look at the feasibility of establishing a new school on Saipan. In line with this, the board instructed Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos to spearhead the feasibility study. Inos said she would assign appropriate staff to assist her on this matter as soon as possible.

April 30, 2006

Govt won't renew TWAs

The Fitial administration will deport or repatriate guest workers who hold temporary work authorizations as part of efforts to stop the widespread illegal employment in the CNMI. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial described this group of workers as "legitimate illegal workers." He said he does not have the exact number of these illegal workers but said there are more than 3,000 people with TWAs. He cited that there are workers who have been holding TWAs not temporarily but almost permanently—for years. He said the previous estimate of illegal aliens was placed at about 2,000. "There's no official estimate but we have a lot more than before," he said.

MVA spared from budget cut

The Marianas Visitors Authority will be spared from a budget cut, according to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. "I know MVA needs more money so I've already asked [Finance] Secretary [Eloy] Inos to waive the budget cut," Fitial announced before the MVA board members and staff during Friday's proclamation signing declaring May as tourism month. At the same time, Fitial assured MVA of additional funds. Fitial said that MVA would be getting more funds from the administration, including a $400,000 incentive for Northwest Airlines. He said that since the government could not give the money to NWA directly due to procurement concerns, it would be released to the MVA Tokyo office instead.

MAFEA get its 1st female president in installation rites

Members of the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects pose for a photo last Sunday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time since its inception in 1995, the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects has installed its first female president.

Birhen Martinez, together with other new MAFEA officers, was sworn in at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan at noon last Sunday.

MAFEA is organization of Filipino engineering and architecture professionals in the CNMI.

The prospect of leading a male-dominated organization did not come with some hesitation on the part of Martinez, who actually had second thoughts about accepting the position.

"…MAFEA is a group of engineers and architects. These are male-dominated professions, so being a member of the organization alone was really hard, but being president would be a lot harder," she said.

What pushed her to eventually take over the reins of the organization was the feeling of empowerment it gave her.

Also, "I felt the camaraderie and professionalism among the members. …It didn't matter what your gender was," she said, adding that she felt she was on common ground during her four-year stay with the organization.

"…I have been amazed at the outpouring of support from all of our members in helping me get ready for my upcoming term… This gives me a good reason and [I] decided to give it my best," she said during her induction speech Sunday.

One of her main focuses for the organization would be recruiting new members. In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, she noted that there are MAFEA members in the U.S. mainland, the Philippines, in Guam, and on other islands within the CNMI.

"Without new and committed members, we might run out of ideas and energy in promoting the core values of this organization. Our membership will play an important role in the success of our plans," she said.

The organization, which consists of over 40 members, assists with several community projects, including a recent bus restoration project on Navy Hill, their Hopwood Middle School dust mitigation project, and basic construction plan reading training.

They also do projects in the Philippines, including their recent cleanup after massive flooding at the San Miguel Elementary School in Bulacan, Philippines.

The other MAFEA officers inducted last Sunday were vice president Ariel Villanueva, secretary Carlito Marquez, treasurer Andrew Mesina, auditor George Medina, public relations officer Hector Sevilla, and business manager Noeh Cruz.

MAFEA board of directors chair Larry Manacop, vice chair Randy Jacob, and board members Fernan Macida, Fernando Fortades, and Gregorio Saracho were also inducted.

Asia Dive Expo Singapore includes the Marianas

Acting Marianas Visitors Authority manager director Judy Torres, third from right, leads the Marianas delegation at Asia Dive Expo Singapore in Suntec City on Apr. 11-14, 2019. From left are diving instructors Nana Tsang and Summer Wu, MVA Taiwan intern Min Chen, Marianas Ocean tourism ambassador Yorko Summer, Torres, MVA marketing specialist Brenda Repeki, and MVA country (Taiwan) manager Milane Tsai. MVA

Diving in the Marianas reached a whole new audience as the Marianas Visitors Authority joined Asia Dive Expo Singapore on April 11-14, 2019, at the Suntec City Exhibition Center in Singapore.

ADEX is the largest and longest running dive consumer and trade show in Asia and attracted over 60,000 visitors this year to the Suntec Convention & Exhibition Centre.

The MVA was joined by Guam Visitors Bureau and Palau Visitors Authority in a Micronesia booth that allowed them to promote their respective destinations and the region, as a whole.

"The dive expo serves as one of the best platforms for divers to catch up and share their latest underwater exploits," said acting MVA managing director Judy Torres. "But more importantly, it allows a conducive environment for ocean lovers to learn about how they can best combat climate change and protect ocean species. In this regard, our Marianas Ocean tourism ambassador, Yorko Summer, joined us once again and was a tremendous asset in sharing about Rota, Tinian, and Saipan based on his experience as a diver, underwater photographer, lecturer, and ocean advocate."

The MVA received an award for Outstanding Contribution to Dive Tourism as part of the event. The agency also hosted the seminar "Diving in the Marianas" on April 12, where Summer was joined by Junho Lee of the Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association and Nana Tsang of Ocean Free, who shared about the multitude of dive experiences available in the Marianas. Summer also promoted the underwater scenery of the Marianas with photos and videos at a special presentation during the expo on April 14. ***(MVA)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
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PUBLIC NOTICE
April 29, 2019

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN. HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019 IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DCD BOARD MEETING. THE DCD BOARD MEETING CONVENES AT 8:30 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
  A. Roll Call
  B. Adoption of Agenda
  C. Adoption of Minutes
    1. February 22, 2019
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Executive Director's Report
    1. Administrative Matters
      a. Personnel Rules & Regulations – Draft
      b. Personnel Matters
    2. Loan Matters
    3. Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters/ Economic Development Activities
      a. QC Beneficiaries' Status
      b. CBO Financial Partnership
  B. Comptroller's Report
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  A. Housing Financing
  B. CPA Resolution
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Financial Options for Specific CIPs
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral summary on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-71, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

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PUBLIC NOTICE
April 29, 2019

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN. INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019 AT 8:30 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Roll Call
  B. Election of Officers
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes
    1. February 21, 2019
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Executive Director's / Loan Manager's Report
  B. Legal Counsel's Report – Litigation Report
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  A. Amendment to the DCD Rules & Regulations
  B. Accounts Write-Off
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. New Loan Application
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral summary on the above agenda items. *(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).*

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Acting Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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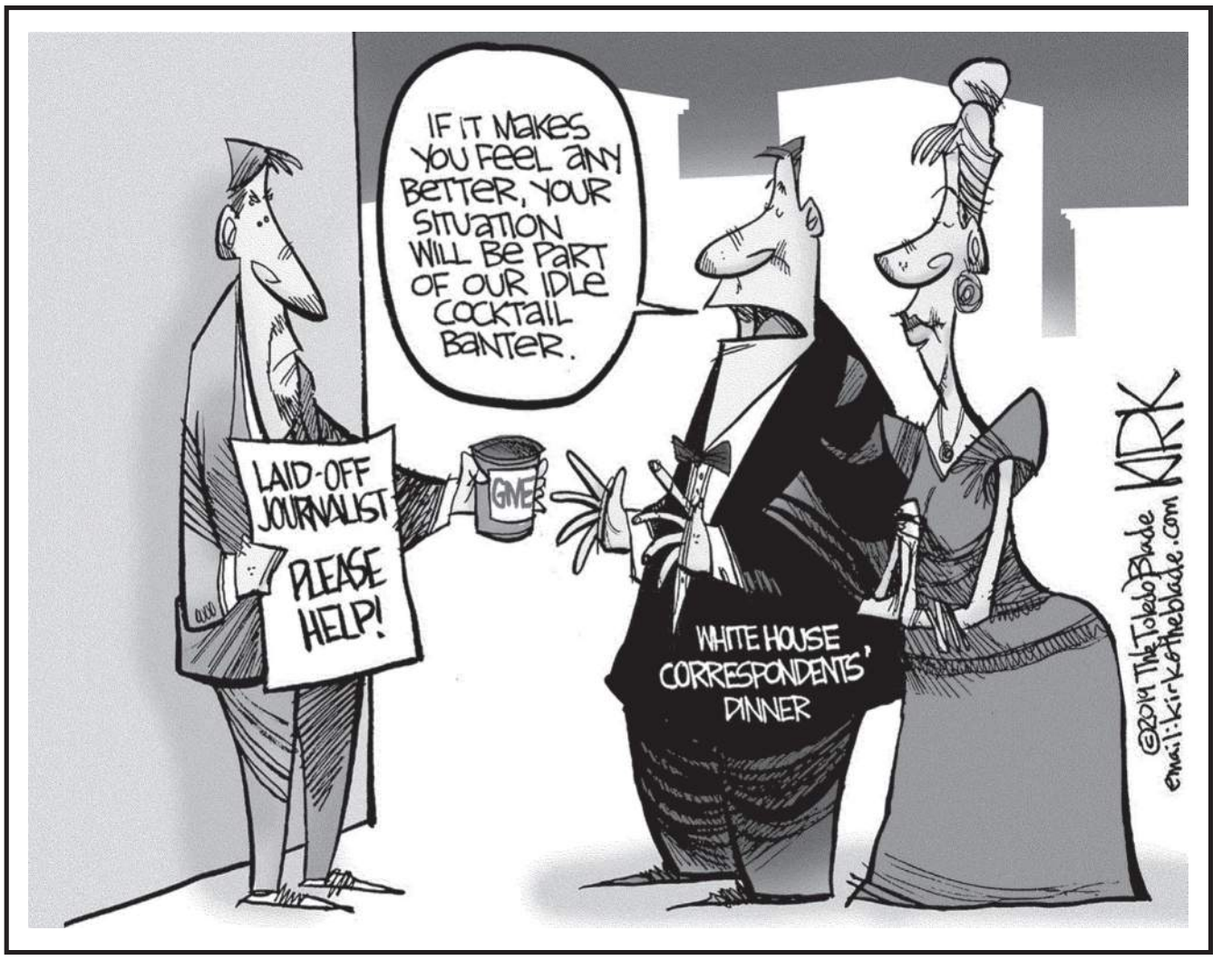
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KIRK

EDITORIAL

The academy wisely ignored Hollywood's grumbling old guard to embrace the future

Ignoring the grumbling from many in Hollywood, the governing board of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voted Tuesday evening not to make it harder for movies financed by Netflix and other streaming services to qualify for Oscars. Any movie that plays for at least a week in a theater in Los Angeles County may continue to be considered for an Academy Award, even if it's simultaneously available online.

As much as some filmmakers and movie buffs have lamented the entry of television- and smartphone-based film services into the hallowed realm of cinema, this is not necessarily bad news for the industry or for the art of moviemaking. Instead, streaming services are spending billions of dollars to make their own films and to distribute other studios' work, to the benefit of talented filmmakers, new voices, less mainstream topics and, yes, established artists.

"Roma," a Netflix film by Alfonso Cuaron, is one example of how these services can bring decidedly non-Hollywood faces and stories to the screen. (It won three Oscars.) Then there's Martin Scorcese's new film, "The Irishman," a movie that star Robert DeNiro says wouldn't have gotten made the way they wanted to make it without the financing from Netflix.

The fear on the other side is that streaming services will undermine the industry's longstanding business model by driving dollars away from movie theaters. Director Steven Spielberg has also warned that making movies just for small screens leaves people without the shared, communal experience of seeing a movie in a theater.

Box office statistics, however, attest that multiplexes are not going away anytime soon _ and besides, the trend toward watching movies on TV sets and laptops is unstoppable. Of course, watching "Lawrence of Arabia" on your iPhone won't begin to capture the lushness of the desertscape. Nor are filmmakers going to stop making that sort of visual spectacle, if they can find financing for it. But ever since the arrival of the VCR, movies have been consumed on screens both gigantic and small. Artists adapted to that long ago.

Traditionally, a movie for an ultra-wide theater screen is framed differently from something made for TV. The scale of the movie, itself, plays a part in the storytelling.

But there is a trade-off here, and it's not a bad one for filmmakers: In exchange for fewer screenings and smaller audiences in a movie theater, they get a bigger, more diverse potential audience of consumers who can watch at home or wherever they choose. The academy wisely decided not to discourage that.

(c)2019 *Los Angeles Times*

Missing boy became a child of all of us

By REX HUPPKE
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune *columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.*

Andrew "AJ" Freund, a 5-year-old boy missing from his Crystal Lake home for the past week, became a child of all of us.

We worried about him as news of his case spread from his hometown of Crystal Lake in McHenry County to every home and tavern, every cubicle and dinner table and street corner in the greater Chicago area. Stories about the case led nightly newscasts, and daily updates hovered among the most-viewed stories on the *Chicago Tribune*'s website.

We talked about AJ, wrote thoughts about him in Facebook posts, aired our worriment. We shook our heads and tensed up at the thought of a 5-year-old gone missing that long—vanished. We saw our own children in AJ. We saw our siblings, our nieces and nephews. We saw our worst fears.

And now those fears have been realized. The little boy's body was apparently found early Wednesday wrapped in plastic in a shallow grave along a stretch of farmland near Woodstock. Amplifying the horror of this news, AJ's parents, Andrew Freund and JoAnn Cunningham, have each been charged with five counts of first-degree murder.

As a community, we stood this past week, precariously, on the thin line between tragedy and a happy ending, hoping our silent prayers or loving thoughts might help. But the darker sides of human behavior are often stubbornly resistant to prayers and positive energy.

It seems that as we absorbed AJ's story and mentally embraced him as our own, the child's fate was already sealed.

From the start, the details of his disappearance have confounded, and they only became partially clearer as police gathered to explain Wednesday's bitter discovery.

His parents told police they last saw AJ when he went to bed last Wednesday night. The story was that they awoke Thursday and couldn't find him, so the father reported him missing.

The father told police the blond-haired, 70-pound boy was wearing black sweatpants and a Mario sweatshirt.

Investigators searched hundreds of acres and used sonar to search nearby lakes. But there was no sign of AJ.

Fear his parents might be involved grew after we learned police dogs "only picked up Andrew's scent within the residence" and the investigation was focused on AJ's home, with nothing to suggest he was abducted.

There had been a number of contacts between the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and AJ's family, dating to his birth in 2013. He was born with opiates in his system. His younger brother was placed in DCFS care after AJ disappeared.

My colleague Robert McCoppin reported Tuesday that police records based on visits to the family's Crystal Lake home "describe a site of filthy living conditions, physical confrontations and possible drug use," including one visit last December that found "dog feces and urine were on the floor all over the house, that there were broken and open windows, and that living conditions were not acceptable."

It was heartbreaking, all of it, and certainly fodder for speculation.

But before the truth came out Wednesday, what struck me was how, as details of AJ's home life trickled out and suspicions grew, the focus in the minds of people watching the story unfold remained on AJ. The innocent child at the center of this always rose above the chaos. We knew the circumstances surrounding his disappearance would become important, and that judgment would inevitably be cast, but what we worried about was AJ.

We brought the boy into our hearts because we wanted to protect him, or at least protect the idea of him.

He's gone now, and our worry turns to grief as our fears turn to anger at the thought of what might have happened to this child.

The charges against the parents make AJ's death difficult to imagine. How could any human do such a thing?

I wrote a version of this column before we learned AJ's fate. It ended like this:

"Say prayers, light candles, send positive thoughts into the night sky.

Godspeed, little boy."

When the news broke later in the day Wednesday, I went through the grim process of rewriting the column, extracting the hope that AJ might be found alive.

But I'm keeping the ending.

Say prayers, light candles, send positive thoughts into the night sky.

Godspeed, little boy.

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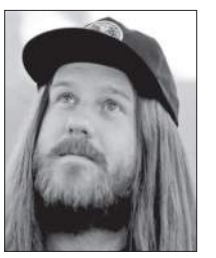
Why Biden's moderation is a liability

By LELAND NALLY
Tribune News Service

Leland Nally is a writer and filmmaker living in Koreatown, Los Angeles. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by the Tribune News Service.*



After a months-long wind-up, Joe Biden officially entered the 2020 presidential race on April 25. Buoyed by Obama-era nostalgia and name recognition, the former vice president has already achieved frontrunner status among the 20 declared Democratic candidates.

Yet, if there is any ideology at all in Biden's campaign, it's old-school moderate centrism that plays much like that of Hillary Clinton's campaign in 2016. And in a race that features many younger and more overtly progressive candidates, that centrism feels outdated.

Biden's campaign website says nothing of the extremely popular Medicare for all proposal, instead offering this treacly rhetoric: "We should defend and build upon the Affordable Care Act to ensure every American has access to quality, affordable health care."

Likewise, in place of where other candidates might advocate College for All or the cancellation of student debt, Biden says, "Education is at the heart of the American Dream, and essential for the United States to compete globally in the decades to come. Every American should have the opportunity throughout their lives to obtain the skills and education to realize their full potential."

This kind of milquetoast sentimentality charading as policy is ripped straight out of the centrist Democrats' playbook. It reads as though it were written by a room full of pollsters and manages to say almost nothing at all. One could read every line of Joe Biden's campaign website and leave unable to imagine what a Biden presidency would actually mean.

The irony is that this vague middle-roading is exactly what Biden supporters like about him. The word most associated with Biden's potential nomination is the fabled "electability." A strong contingent of Democrats have been so utterly shell-shocked by Trump's success in the 2016 race that they see veering to the middle as their best way forward.

In what would truly be the most profound of Trumpian victories, Biden supporters would rather retreat to outmoded centrism and capitulation, than risk scaring away working-class whites in Michigan and Pennsylvania with talk about guaranteed health care and dramatic action on climate change, ideas that represent the real future of the Democratic party.

But perhaps most mind-boggling is that Biden and his supporters continue to insist on returning to the center even after the landmark victories and popularity of left candidates including Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar in 2018. Forming the most progressive and diverse freshman Democratic House in U.S. history, these fresh faces (read: the future of the party) have decidedly different views on centrism.

As Ocasio-Cortez has stated, "When we think about the greatest things we have ever accomplished as a society have been ambitious acts of vision, and the 'meh' is just worshipped now, for what?"

Ocasio-Cortez's own victory and enduring popularity is precisely due to her dismissal of establishment centrism, which allowed her to unseat 10-term moderate Democrat Joe Crowley. The future of the Democratic Party is clear, and Biden is in the way.

At its core, Biden's brand of centrism only serves to amplify the ideology of the currently powerful and helps enforce the status quo. In an age where the status quo involves migrant children locked in cages at the border, indebted college students, sick people unable to afford life-saving medication, and the ever-present threat of catastrophic climate change, moderation politics is effectively immoderate.

If America is ever to fully recover from the Trump administration, combat climate change, and curb skyrocketing wealth inequality, it will be because of bold progressive leadership.

There is nothing sensible about Biden's brand of common sense. In Trump's America, the center is still an irredeemable locale that will serve only to manage America's decline, not reverse it.

Stop rejecting science in favor of superstition

By REKHA BASU
Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register. *Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.*

Measles was eradicated 19 years ago in the U.S., yet Rockland County, N.Y., and parts of New York City's Williamsburg section of Brooklyn are under states of emergency because of measles outbreaks.

There were 387 cases of measles reported in the country between January and March. That's primarily because people who never were vaccinated traveled abroad, contracted the disease and brought it back, where it spread among others who were never vaccinated. And a major reason they weren't vaccinated, more than 50 years after the measles vaccine became available, is because of their religious beliefs. Parents of unvaccinated children have responded to the New York emergency declaring by filing a lawsuit seeking to halt the vaccination requirement.

On a parallel issue, Americans stopped losing their teeth to decay after communities began adding fluoride to their drinking water in the late 1940s. In the 1900s, the No. 1 reason for admission to Mayo Clinic was tooth infection, says an Iowa health official; everyone had dental decay or lost teeth.

But due to an amalgam of conspiracy theories, some by promoters of alternative, unregulated health products, some people are turning against fluoridation. The latest to do so publicly in Iowa is the northwestern city of Ida Grove, whose city council voted to stop fluoridating the water after a majority of residents surveyed indicated that's what they wanted.

A 2018 report from the federal Centers for Disease Control listed more than 400 non-fluoridated Iowa water systems, each relied upon by anywhere from 30 to over 2,500 people. Often in these small water districts, they remove fluoridation without notifying the state; the water operators may even do so without informing city elected officials, says Bob Russell, director of the dental division at the Iowa Department of Public Health.

"When it's removed, we do see a stark increase in decay," he said. It might take a dental hygienist to start noticing the results.

The anti-fluoridation movement isn't religion-based, but as with vaccine opponents, some of its most visible advocates approach the issue from an individual rights perspective, believing that government should not dictate what individuals or families do. The leader of the most prominent anti-fluoride group, Paul Connett of the New York-based Fluoride Action Network, has partnered with anti-vaccine forces.

Though his spokesperson wrote in an email that he sticks to valid science to show fluoride's harmful effects, the Campaign for Dental Health points out that his facts come mainly from other countries where concentrations are higher. It notes the FAN website "promotes a conspiracy theory linking fluoridation with the atomic bomb and government scientists." Connett has also been a repeat guest on a TV show hosted by 9/11 conspiracy theorist Alex Jones of Infowars.

Why are communities revisiting debunked theories after the scientific community has exhaustively documented the health benefits of fluoride and vaccines? Before the measles vaccine became available in 1963, the disease infected 3 million to 4 million people and caused 450 deaths and 4,000 cases of encephalitis a year in the U.S.

It's cyclical, says Russell, observing that most people in their 40s, 50s and younger have had the benefit of fluoridated water and don't realize how bad it was before.

"We are the victims of our successes," he quipped, telling stories of the pre-fluoridation 1920s, when women getting married might get dentures as gifts, and men couldn't attend religious services because they didn't have six functioning teeth.

State governments like Iowa's require vaccination certificates for children to attend public and private schools, licensed child care centers and preschools. But exemptions can be granted for medical and religious reasons. More than three times the religious exemptions from vaccinations were granted in Iowa in 2017-18 than 10 years earlier—8,740 compared to 2,572.

How can we have come this far in rejecting myth and superstition in favor of science yet remain so susceptible to baseless fear-mongering? Though there has always been some resistance to fluoride, says Russell, it tends to peak during periods of high distrust of government. The resurgence of fake science accompanies the proliferation of politically motivated websites spreading fake news. Emotion substitutes for facts, he said.

Some fluoridation opponents promote and sell so-called natural health alternative products and services that were not scientifically reviewed or proven, according to health advocacy organizations. Russell points out that fluoride is a mineral found typically in rocks and herbs, that appears naturally in bodies of water.

Ensuring the proper level of it in drinking water supplies helps level the playing field for people who may not get regular preventive dental care, Russell said.

"The scientific consensus over fluoridation's health benefits, safety, social justice, and economies has been firmly established over six decades of widespread use in the United States and elsewhere," says a health policy organization, Science in Medicine, which issued a paper slamming anti-fluoridation conspiracy theorists.

"Nevertheless, anti-science critics have never relented in their opposition—recycling previously disproven charges of harm, inventing new ones out of whole cloth, misrepresenting scientific facts and research, exaggerating risks, understating benefits, inappropriately invoking the precautionary principle, and accusing public health officials of corruption, conspiracy, and 'mass medication' of whole populations."

As an engaged public, we should all hold our government and institutions accountable and be skeptical when there are legitimate indications of wrongdoing. But we need to be discerning and base judgments on evidence, not on fabricated theories stemming from some ideological agenda or promoting someone's snake-oil sales.

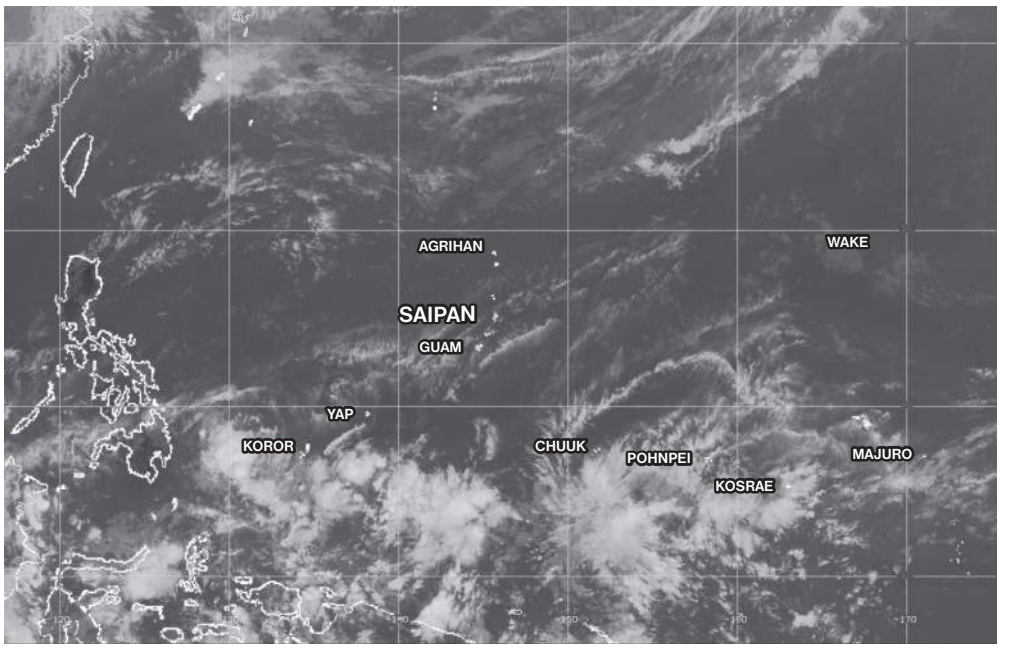
The people most likely to suffer when fluoridation is removed or vaccines are withheld are typically those who can least afford to compensate for those lacks, and may be most susceptible

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:58 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar and satellite show scattered light trade-wind showers across the Marianas, which should mostly dissipate after daybreak. Moderate trades are also present, along with 4-5 ft seas at the Guam buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	87° / 77°
Palau	Showers	85° / 78°
Yap	Cloudy	88° / 80°
Chuuk	Showers	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Hong Kong	Showers	81° / 73°
Honolulu	Sunny	84° / 72°
London	Cloudy	64° / 45°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	97° / 81°
Melbourne	Cloudy	70° / 55°
Miami	Sunny	82° / 74°
New York	Cloudy	66° / 50°
Osaka	Showers	68° / 59°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	66° / 45°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	66° / 48°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	89° / 65°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	70° / 48°
Tokyo	Rain	70° / 61°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 61°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:10 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.76
11:29 AM	LOW TIDE	0.83
4:42 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.47
11:08 PM	LOW TIDE	0.43

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:49 AM	2:46 PM	-
Wednesday	3:27 AM	3:33 PM	-
Thursday	4:05 AM	4:21 PM	-
Friday	4:42 AM	5:10 PM	-
Saturday	5:21 AM	6:00 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 27, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

SKY801	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily up to May 3

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

SKY01K	10:30am	3:15pm	Daily up to May 3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Barrett named 2019 Businesswoman of the Year

Barrett

TUMON, Guam—Jessica M. Barrett, president, Barrett Enterprises Inc., which does business as Barrett Plumbing, was named the 2019 Guam Business Magazine Businesswoman of the Year and presented with the annual award at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on April 27 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Barrett was selected from eight nominees in this year's program, which recognizes businesswomen who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community. Her photo is featured on the cover of *Guam Business Magazine*'s May-June issue, which was released at the gala.

Barrett has worked alongside her father in the family plumbing business for as long as she can remember, officially joining the company as office manager in 1998. In 2003, she became the president of Barrett Plumbing, in addition to being the first certified female plumber on Guam.

She was born on Guam and holds a 1995 bachelor's in business management from the University of Guam. Since, she has gone on to receive certification in Water Treatment Plant Operator Level 1, the 2008 Certificate of Apprenticeship as Plumber from U.S. Department of Labor, the 2013 National Center for Construction Education certificate in Research Project Management, the 2017 OSH Solutions Foundations for Safety Leadership certificate, the 2018 Babson College 10KSB Certificate and the 2019 RME for Barrett Enterprises Inc.

Barrett served as president of the National Association of Women in Construction from 2015 to 2016, chairwoman of NAWICs Beers, Boys & Toys event in 2016 and as a board member and member of the Membership Committee and Scholarship Committee for the Guam Contractor's Association from 2016 to 2019. She is the vice chairwoman and incoming president of GCA, where she also serves as vice chairwoman of the Small Business Committee.

Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships for students pursuing business and related degrees at the University of Guam, Guam Community College and Northern Marianas College.

Barrett joins the previous Businesswoman of the Year award recipients, which are as follows: Mary Grace D. Jacot, president and CEO, SET Pacific Inc. (2018); Ramona L. Jones, CEO, Jones & Guerrero Co. Inc. (2017); Sophia Chu Wigsten, general manager, Hyatt Regency Guam (2016); Joann G. Camacho, director of market development, DFS Guam (2015); Shirley Ann T. Sablan, president and chief operating officer, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. (2014); F. Marie Calvo-Monge, CEO, Pacific Telestations Inc., which does business as KUAM Communications (2013); Mary P. Rhodes, president, Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and President, MARQ Consulting Services (2012); Joyce Quinata Crisostomo, executive director, Cars Plus and President, Payless Car Rental (2011); Anna Wang Kao, founder and president, Genghis Khan Furniture Co. (2010); Lorraine S. Okada, president and owner, Managing Consulting Services (2009); Julienne Rose Perez Duenas, physical therapist, owner and clinical director, Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc. (2008); Christine Won Pat Baleto, store owner and franchisee, Market Wholesale Distributors (2007); and Katherine C. Calvo, executive vice president and chairwoman of the board, Pay-Less Markets Inc. (2006).

For more information, contact Meghan Hickey, business editor, Guam Business Magazine at (671) 649-0883 ext. 126. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SAS pilots strike means 1,200 more flights cancelled

HELSINKI (AP)—Nearly 600 flights have been canceled and thousands of passengers stranded on the third day of a pilots strike at Scandinavian Airlines that the carrier estimates has affected some 170,000 passengers over the weekend. The flag carrier of Denmark, Norway and Sweden on Sunday announced further flight cancellations as the parties failed to resume talks on a new collective bargaining agreement. It plans to cancel another 1,213 flights Monday and Tuesday, hitting some 110,000 passengers. The open-ended strike started Friday following the collapse of pay negotiations with the SAS Pilot Group, which represents 95% of the company's pilots in the three countries. SAS said it "deeply regrets" the distress to clients on its domestic, European and long-haul flights.

Trump's Fed pick defends record, regrets some past writings

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's pick for the Federal Reserve Board says he regrets past controversial articles he's written about women and urged critics to focus on his economic record. Stephen Moore says the articles were meant as humor columns, but "some weren't funny, so I am apologetic." He calls the criticism a "smear campaign" and tells ABC: "Let's make this about the economy." Moore is a well-known conservative commentator for more than two decades. He was an adviser to the Trump presidential campaign and helped design the 2017 tax cuts. He says he stands by his economic positions but adds if his nomination became too much of a liability to GOP senators, "I would withdraw." Trump's other Fed board pick, Herman Cain, withdrew over past allegations of sexual harassment and infidelity.

Southwest: Boeing didn't say it had deactivated safety alert

Southwest Airlines says Boeing did not disclose that it had deactivated a safety feature on its 737 Max jets until after one of the airliners crashed last year. At issue is an alert that tells pilots if a sensor—called an "angle of attack" (AOA) indicator—is transmitting bad data about the pitch of a plane's nose. The sensor's alerts had been operational in previous versions of the 737 but were switched off in the 737 Max. The news first appeared Sunday in The Wall Street Journal. The Journal also reported that Federal Aviation Administration safety inspectors and supervisors did not know about the change either. The FAA declined to comment. In a statement Sunday, Southwest said that the safety feature was "depicted to us by Boeing as operable on all Max aircraft." Only after a Lion Air 737 Max crashed in Indonesia last Oct. 29 did Boeing say the feature wasn't turned on, Southwest said. The Max was grounded after a second crash, involving an Ethiopian Airlines jet, on March 10. In response to the Journal story, Boeing said that as the Max planes return to service "all customers will have the AOA disagree alert as standard."

The next iteration of United's livery prominently features the color most connected to the airline's core—blue. Three shades–Rhapsody Blue, United Blue and Sky Blue–are used throughout the design in a way that pays respect to United's heritage while bringing a more modern energy.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OUT WITH THE GOLD, IN WITH THE BLUE

United Airlines unveils next fleet paint design

» Updated aircraft livery is next step in United's ongoing efforts to modernize visual brand

CHICAGO—United Airlines is introducing customers and employees to a modernized aircraft livery, which will bring a refreshed look to its fleet. The design is a visual representation of United's ongoing brand evolution while staying true to the history it has developed over the past 93 years of proudly serving customers around the world.

"As we improve and elevate our customer experience, we are changing the way people think and feel about United, and this branding captures that new spirit," said Oscar Munoz, CEO of United Airlines. "Each improvement we've added to our service advances our evolution as an airline, furthering our effort to elevate and redefine customer service in the sky. This modernized design, especially our iconic globe, enhances the very best of United's image and values while pointing in the direction of where we intend to go next in serving our customers."

The next iteration of United's livery prominently features the color most connected to the airline's core—blue. Three shades–Rhapsody Blue, United Blue and Sky Blue–are used throughout the design in a way that pays respect to United's heritage while bringing a more modern energy. The airline is keeping its iconic globe logo on the aircraft tail, which represents the carrier's expansive route network of reaching 355 destinations in nearly 60 countries. The tail will be updated with a gradient in the three shades of blue, while the logo will now appear predominantly in Sky Blue. The engines and wingtips are also being painted United Blue, and the swoop that customers and employees have expressed fondness for on United's Dreamliner fleet will be added to all aircraft in Rhapsody Blue. United's name will appear larger on the aircraft body and the lower half of the body will be painted Runway Gray. United's mission of "Connecting people. Uniting the world." will also be painted near the door of each aircraft.

The new design features core colors from United's updated brand palette, which was introduced last year as a step toward updating the brand's visual identity. Blue continues to be the airline's primary color, with various tones creating more depth and reflecting the colors customers and employees see when they look out the plane window at the sky. The airline's new color palette also includes shades of purple, which is most recognizable as the color of the new United Premium Plus seats are being added to the fleet. When combined, the purple and blue tones create a soothing environment and a more relaxed travel experience. In updating its colors, United is reducing the use of gold, which was added to the brand palette almost 30 years ago. United's new color palette can also be seen in the accent colors of the new uniforms that are being created for more than 70,000 front-line employees.

On average, United aircraft receive new paint jobs every seven years. The first aircraft painted with the new design is a Boeing 737-800, which will be joined by a mix of narrowbody, widebody and regional aircraft with the updated livery throughout the year. For more information visit united.com/brandevolution. ***(United)***

Nation

Rabbi says gun 'miraculously jammed' in California attack

POWAY, Calif. (AP)—In the minutes after the gunman fled the scene of a shooting that killed a woman inside a Southern California synagogue, a wounded Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein wrapped his bloodied hand in a prayer shawl, stood on a chair and addressed the panicked congregation, vowing to stay strong in the face of the deadly attack targeting his community.

"We are a Jewish nation that will stand tall. We will not let anyone take us down. Terrorism like this will not take us down," Goldstein recalled telling his congregants after the gunfire erupted Saturday at Chabad of Poway.

Congregant Lori Kaye, 60, was killed in the shooting, which injured Goldstein, 8-year-old Noya Dahan and her 34-year-old uncle, Almog Peretz, authorities said. Hours after the three wounded were released from hospitals, Goldstein described the onslaught at a news conference Sunday outside the synagogue north of San Diego.

AP

Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein speaks at a news conference at the Chabad of Poway synagogue, Sunday, April 28, 2019, in Poway, Calif.

Goldstein said he was preparing for a service on the last day of Passover, a holiday celebrating freedom, and heard a loud sound. He turned around, and a saw a young man wearing sunglasses standing in front of him with a rifle.

"I couldn't see his eyes. I couldn't see his soul," Goldstein said. He raised his hands and lost one of his fingers in the shooting.

And then, Goldstein said, "miraculously the gun jammed."

The attack Saturday came exactly six months after a mass shooting in a Pittsburgh synagogue.

John T. Earnest, 19, surrendered to police after bursting into the synagogue and opening fire as about 100 people were worshipping inside.

Earnest, who had no previous contact with law enforcement, may face a hate crime charge in addition to homicide charges when he's arraigned later this week, San Diego County Sheriff William Gore said. He was being held without bail, and it was unclear if he had an attorney. Police searched Earnest's house and said he was also being investigated in connection with an arson attack on a mosque in nearby Escondido, California, on March 24.

The 8-year-old victim said she had just finished praying and was getting ready to go play with other children when gunshots rang out. Her uncle rushed her and the other children outside, the girl said.

Her leg was bleeding but doctors told her she didn't need surgery, she said.

"I was scared, really, really scared," she said. "I didn't see my dad. I thought he was dead."

Her father, 32-year-old Israel Dahan, said he flipped over a folding table as soon as he saw the man enter carrying a long rifle and told people to run. He went to look for his children and found two had been ushered out and his 5-year-old was hiding in the bathroom, he said.

There were indications an AR-type assault weapon might have malfunctioned after the gunman fired numerous rounds inside, Gore said. An off-duty Border Patrol agent fired at the shooter as he fled, missing him but striking his getaway vehicle, the sheriff said.

Shortly after fleeing, Earnest called 911 to report the shooting, San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit said. When an officer reached him on a roadway, "the suspect pulled over, jumped out of his car with his hands up and was immediately taken into custody," he said.

Friends described Kaye as giving, warm and attentive to community members on their birthdays and when they were sick. A wife and mother, she loved gardening and made delicious challah for her family and friends, said Roneet Lev, 55.

Goldstein described her as a pioneering founding member of the congregation and said he was heartbroken by her death. He said the attack could have harmed many more people had the shooter turned toward the sanctuary where so many were praying.

"Lori took the bullet for all of us," the rabbi said, his hands wrapped in bandages. "She didn't deserve to die."

He said that Kaye's physician husband was called to tend to a wounded worshipper and fainted when he realized it was his wife.

When the gunfire erupted, another worshipper, Shimon Abitbul, said he immediately placed his 2-year-old grandson on the floor and waited for a break in the shooting to grab the boy and sprint away.

Then Abitbul ran back to the shooting scene to try to help a woman he described as having a hole in her chest and who later died, he said Sunday.

Abitbul, who was visiting from Israel and staying with his daughter and her family in Southern California, said he was still coming to grips with the carnage.

"All of us are human beings," he said. "It doesn't matter if you are Jews or Christians or Muslims."

Immigrant-heavy GOP states OK with census citizen question

PHOENIX (AP)—It's not just Democratic-leaning states at risk of losing federal money and clout in Congress if the Supreme Court says the upcoming census can include a citizenship question.

Fast-growing Arizona, Florida and Texas all have large groups of immigrants, especially Hispanics, who might choose to sit out the census, but are led by Republicans who seem unconcerned about the potential for an undercount and the resulting loss of representation in Congress.

The divide between blue and red states with large immigrant populations is stark as both prepare for a census that could ask about citizenship for the first time in 70 years.

Republican lawmakers in several states with large immigrant populations praised the Trump administration for fighting to include the question and wondered whether immigrants should even be included in the count.

Florida state Sen. Joe Gruters, who also is chairman of the state Republican Party, said he wasn't worried about the potential consequences of an undercount.

"I don't care," he said. "It's the right decision, and I fully support the president and what he's trying to do."

He expects Florida will still pick up at least one seat because of rapid growth.

The U.S. Supreme Court will decide soon whether to uphold the Trump administration's plan to ask about citizenship on census forms. There appeared to be a clear divide between the court's liberal and conservative justices in arguments in the case this past week, with conservatives holding a 5-4 majority.

Federal law requires people to complete the census accurately and fully. But Ceridwen Cherry, a lawyer on the American Civil Liberties Union's voting rights project, said including a citizenship question could contaminate the form for many people and result in an undercount.

"If a citizenship question is added, immigrants and those who live in households that contain noncitizens are going to be more likely to not respond to the census at all," she said, "or respond and leave off noncitizens from the form."

The concern among certain immigrant groups—particularly Hispanics and Muslims—is driven by the Trump administration's oftentimes harsh rhetoric about immigration and fears that it will share the census data with immigration authorities. When an advisory committee asked the U.S. Census Bureau about that worry last year, officials responded by saying that breaking census confidentiality is a federal crime punishable by up to five years in prison.

Police: 8 shot, 1 fatally, in latest Baltimore shooting

BALTIMORE (AP)—A gunman fired indiscriminately into a crowd that had gathered for Sunday afternoon cookouts along a west Baltimore street, killing a man and wounding seven other people, authorities and reports said.

Police Commissioner Michael Harrison said the gunfire erupted after 5 p.m. on a block in the city's western district of brick row homes. Harrison said a man approached a crowd on foot and began firing in what he called "a very tragic, very cowardly shooting." Speaking at the scene afterward, Harrison said the shooting appeared "extremely targeted," but he didn't provide a possible motive.

The shooting comes roughly six weeks after Harrison's swearing-in last month as Baltimore police commissioner, when he promised to make the city safer and lead the department through sweeping reforms required by a federal consent decree. It's a daunting task in one of the country's poorest major cities where there were more than 300 homicides in each of the past two years. Harrison is the city's 14th police leader since the mid-1990s.

The commissioner said there were two cookouts taking place on opposite sides of the street Sunday, and that shell casings were found in two different locations, indicating that there may have been a second gunman, or someone firing back at the first shooter, who fled on foot. It was unclear whether the cookouts were related, Harrison said.

One man who was shot collapsed behind a Baptist church nearby and was pronounced dead at the scene. Harrison said initially that six others had been wounded and were taken to hospitals, but he didn't release their names or their conditions. A police statement later said a man was killed, but didn't give his age. It said five of the survivors were men ranging in ages from 27 to 58, as well as a 30-year-old woman.

A police spokeswoman later Sunday evening was cited by The Baltimore Sun as saying an eighth victim, a man with a gunshot wound to the leg, went to a hospital. The report did not elaborate.

"It wasn't anything dealing with the church. I want to make that very clear," acting mayor Jack Young said.

Harrison and Young, in appearance with reporters, urged members of the public to help investigators with any information as to who took part or a motive.

Asia

East Sri Lanka on edge after Easter bombers linked to region

KALMUNAI, Sri Lanka (AP)—Suicide bombings at a militants' safe house have shaken the simple homes of this east Sri Lankan town as well as the rest of this idyllic coast, as the investigation into the Islamic State-claimed Easter bombings has spread here.

Police and military checkpoints dot the coastal roads, with people emptying out of buses to present their identity papers. On streets lined with shuttered shops, police officers with assault rifles look warily at passers-by. Whispers persist about the leader of the IS-pledged militant group, which preached the promise of heaven through the killing of others both here and online.

The scale of the explosives seized following Friday night's violence, as well as the continued warning of authorities that more militants remain on the loose, only add to the dread.

"Even though the security forces are here, it's not like earlier," said Chandima Krishanthi, a 42-year-old market vendor in nearby Ampara. "We are living in fear. It's nothing like it used to be."

Sri Lanka's eastern coast was a battleground in the island nation's 26-year civil war with the Tamil Tiger rebels, a group of secular nationalists who launched over 130 suicide bombings themselves. The war ultimately ended in 2009 with the government crushing the Tigers, with some observers believing that tens of thousands of Tamils died in the last few months of fighting alone.

Violence here in Kalmunai, some 225 kilometers (140 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo, shattered nearly 10 years of peace on Friday night. One neighbor, Ahamed Mohammed Rizwan, told The Associated Press that leaders at his mosque asked him and two others to go the militants' house and check on them as he knew the people living there.

As they approached, one man opened the gate and said, "Peace be upon you," Rizwan said. He replied the same way and they entered the compound and began talking. Suddenly, another man appeared with a Chinese variant of the Kalashnikov assault rifle and aimed it at Rizwan's chest, saying, "God is the greatest."

Rizwan and the other men fled and found two traffic police officers, who then started walking toward the house. The militants opened fire, sparking the confrontation, Rizwan said. Those inside later detonated suicide vests, killing themselves and others.

AP journalists walking through the neighborhood Sunday found evidence of the firefight. Spent 7.62 mm cartridges littered the ground, likely from the assault rifle one of the militants carried. Down the street, bullet holes punctured the cement block walls of neighbors' homes.

Around the house, the scale of the violence became even more clear. A limb still lay in a drainage ditch. The roof of the home had been blown off by the power of the explosion, pages of religious tracts in Arabic lying atop it.

Inside the home, lined notebooks had a child's shaky Arabic calligraphy. Police also laid out white linen women's dresses recovered from inside, similar to those worn by Buddhists when they go to temple. Investigators spoke softly to each other, wondering if that meant the militants planned to expand their targets beyond Christian churches.

Soldiers waited until sunrise Saturday before entering the home, ending the violence that killed 15 people. Amid the blood-stained walls and shattered glass, they found a young girl, as well as a woman. Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara later identified them as the wife and 4-year-old daughter of Mohammed Zahran, the alleged mastermind behind the Easter Sunday bombings of three churches and three hotels that killed over 250 people.

Meanwhile, in nearby Kattankudy, the mosque of National Towheed Jamaat, the organization that Zahran once led, found itself raided by police and military Sunday. Authorities searched and shut down the center just within eyesight of the waves of the Bay of Bengal.

The Islamic State group claimed Friday night's suicide bombings, saying early Sunday morning that "with success from Allah the Almighty" the attackers blew themselves up.

But police discovered the bodies of six children inside of the home, all likely the victims of a powerful blast that tore away part of the home's roof and sent out a deadly wave of small metal balls.

Sifting through debris Sunday afternoon, a police officer discovered the arm of what appeared to be an infant. He cupped it in his gloved hands, blackened from the soot.

"These people are animals," he said. "How can they have children then blow up these children?"

The officer gently laid the child's arm down next to a charred assault rifle magazine, a license plate and pieces of a cellphone. It was now evidence of even greater crimes.

AP

A police officer stand guards at a site of a gun battle between troops and suspected Islamist militants as neighbors gather to watch in Kalmunai, Sri Lanka, Sunday, April 28, 2019.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan reports voyage of 2 US warships through Taiwan Strait

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's defense ministry says two U.S. warships have sailed through the Taiwan Strait, in a move likely to spark protests from Beijing. The ministry said the ships made the passage on Sunday, sailing from south to north through the waterway that divides the self-governing island from mainland China. Beijing frequently objects to such voyages based on its claim to Taiwan as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary. In a statement Monday, the ministry said U.S. ships were free to sail through the Taiwan Strait as part of their "strategic Indo-Pacific tasks." China last week complained to France after a French warship entered Chinese territorial waters while traversing the Taiwan Strait, and blamed British naval activity in the South China Sea for a downturn in bilateral relations.

Bomb blast kills 3 Pakistani forces near Afghan border

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani security official says a bomb blast near the Afghan border has killed three security personnel. Local administration official Rehmat Khan says a paramilitary soldier was wounded in Saturday's blast near a security checkpoint in North Waziristan, which was a longtime stronghold for the Taliban, al-Qaida and other militant groups. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. Pakistan claims to have driven out the militants in a series of military operations in recent years, but the region still sees occasional attacks. Last year, the government merged North Waziristan with the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province to give equal rights to the 5 million residents of the rugged, tribal region.

Japanese police probe knife on desk of emperor's grandson

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese police are investigating a knife that was placed on the school desk of Emperor Akihito's grandson, according to media reports Saturday. The incident Friday involving 12-year-old Hisahito, who is in succession line for the Chrysanthemum Throne, comes as Japan prepares for ceremonies marking Akihito's abdication on April 30. Kyodo News said police are investigating security camera footage. The Metropolitan Police Department declined comment and Ochanomizu University Junior High School did not answer calls. Akihito's son, Crown Prince Naruhito, is set to become emperor May 1. Hisahito is Naruhito's nephew. The emperor, revered as a god during World War II, now holds no political power and serves as a national symbol. Akihito and his family are generally popular but have been targeted in attacks in the past.

Thousands march in Hong Kong against extradition law

HONG KONG (AP)—Thousands of protesters marched through downtown Hong Kong on Sunday in opposition to changes to an extradition law widely seen as eroding the territory's independent legal system.

Many of those taking part carried yellow umbrellas, recalling Hong Kong's massive 2014 pro-democracy protests, the leaders of whom have been sentenced to up to 16 months in prison.

Hong Kong police said around 22,800 people took part in Sunday's protest at its peak period.

Participants carried placards accusing Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam of "selling out" the territory, and called on her to resign.

Revisions to the law would make it easier to send criminal suspects to mainland China, where they could face vague national security charges and unfair trials.

"Hong Kong and China have completely different legal systems," said marcher Roland Lo, 49. "Creating a loophole that could mean a Hong Kong person gets extradited to China to face prosecution there, that completely destroys the guarantee of human rights and legal protection of one country, two systems."

Under that system, Hong Kong was guaranteed the right to retain its own social, legal and political systems for 50 years following its handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

Another marcher, Amanda Wong, 40, said it was important to exercise those rights while they were under perceived attack.

"We have to come out to march. It doesn't matter if we can change the situation or not, we just have come out while we still have the chance," she said.

Business, legal, human rights and journalists groups have expressed concerns over the proposed changes, saying they will damage Hong Kong's reputation for legal independence.

The amendments expand the scope for the transfer of criminal suspects to China and remove the legislature's right to scrutinize individual extradition decisions filed by Hong Kong's chief executive.

World

Socialists win Spain election, far-right emerges as player

MADRID (AP)—Spain's governing center-left Socialists won the country's election Sunday but must seek backing from smaller parties to maintain power, while a far-right party rode an unprecedented surge of support to enter the lower house of parliament for the first time in four decades.

With 99% of ballots counted, the Socialists led by Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez won 29% of the vote, capturing 123 seats in the 350-seat Congress of Deputies. The new far-right Vox party made its national breakthrough by capturing 10% of the vote, which would give it 24 seats.

Sánchez announced that he would soon open talks with other political parties, telling crowds gathered at the gates of his party headquarters in central Madrid that "the future has won and the past has lost."

He hinted at a preference for a left-wing governing alliance but also sent a warning to Catalan separatists whose support he may need that any post-electoral pact must respect the country's 1978 constitution, which bans regions from seceding.

"The only condition is to respect the constitution, move toward social justice, coexistence and political cleanliness," Sánchez said of his criteria for working with other parties.

AP

Supporters of Republican Left party of Catalonia celebrate the results of the general election in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, April 28, 2019.

Vox's success came at the expense of the once-dominant conservative Popular Party, which fell to 66 seats, losing more than half of its representation since the last election in 2016. The conservatives lost votes both to Vox and to the center-right Citizens party, which will increase its number of seats from 32 to 57.

Voters in Spain had become disillusioned as the country struggled with a recession, austerity cuts, corruption scandals, divisive demands for independence from the restive Catalonia region and a rise in far-right nationalism not seen since Spain's dictatorship ended in the 1970s.

"We told you that we were going to begin a reconquering of Spain and that's what we have done," Vox leader Santiago Abascal said, referring to the 15th century campaign by Spanish Catholic kingdoms to end Muslim rule in the Iberian Peninsula.

Vox, which was formed five years ago, has promised to defend Spain from its "enemies," citing feminists, liberal elites and Muslims among others. Its emergence on the national stage gives Spain five political parties, furthering political fragmentation in a country that was alternately ruled for decades by the Socialists and the Popular Party.

To stay in office, the Socialists and Sánchez must form a governing alliance with smaller parties, including the far-left United We Can led by Pablo Iglesias.

Iglesias said after the vote the he "would have liked a better result, but it's been enough to stop the right-wing and build a left-wing coalition government," adding that he's already offered support to Sánchez.

But Sánchez will still need support from 11 more seats to produce a 176-seat majority in the lower house of parliament, meaning he may be forced to make pacts with Catalan and other separatist parties—moves that would anger many Spaniards on the left and the right.

Pablo Casado, who had steered the Popular Party further to the right to try to stop it from losing votes to Vox, called his party's worst ballot result ever "very bad," saying that "we've been losing our electoral support for several elections."

160,000 at risk in Mozambique after 2nd cyclone in 6 weeks

PEMBA, Mozambique (AP)—A second disaster unfolded on Sunday in northern Mozambique in the wake of Cyclone Kenneth as raging flood waters killed one person and began to cut off the region's main city from the outside world. Some 160,000 people were at risk, with more torrential rain forecast for the days ahead.

"Help us, we are losing everything!" residents in Pemba city shouted at passing cars as the rushing waters poured into doorways. Women and girls with buckets and pots tried to scoop away the torrent, in vain. Some houses collapsed, the United Nations said.

"It's an awful sense of deja vu," said Nicholas Finney, response team leader with the aid group Save the Children. Kenneth arrived just six weeks after Cyclone Idai ripped into central Mozambique and killed more than 600 people with flooding.

This was the first time in recorded history that the southern African nation has been hit by two cyclones in one season, again raising concerns about climate change.

The new storm's remnants could dump twice as much rain as Idai, the U.N. World Program has said. Up to 100 millimeters (nearly 4 inches) were forecast in the next 24 hours for some parts of the region, according to Mozambique's meteorological institute.

"I have never seen such rains in my life," said one Pemba resident, 35-year-old Michael Fernando.

Residents mourned one death in the Nitate neighborhood after a brick wall fell on a woman and the waters swept her against another building, said community leader Estenacio Pilale.

Other residents tried to pile up tires and sand-filled sacks as barricades. Cars began to slip under the waters.

"We will keep moving until we get somewhere safe," one man said, as people fled carrying belongings in plastic bags. Others showed flashes of impatience. "Will this water ever give us a break?" Abdul Carimo asked. "The moment we try to do anything with our lives, it starts again."

Authorities earlier said at least five people died after Kenneth roared in Thursday evening with the force of a Category 4 hurricane, stunning residents of a region where such a storm had not been recorded in the modern era.

The government said more than 160,000 people have been affected in the largely rural region, many now exposed and hungry. More than 35,000 homes in parts of Mozambique's northernmost Cabo Delgado were partially or fully destroyed by the storm. More than 23,000 people were in shelters, the government said.

Aid workers trying to reach hard-hit communities outside Pemba on Sunday were forced to turn back by rivers that burst their banks, with flood waters reaching the roofs of nearby houses. It was not clear when aid to scores of thousands of people outside the city could be delivered.

"Helicopters cannot fly, a number of flights were canceled, so humanitarian workers cannot arrive and additional cargo cannot arrive by air," Finney with Save the Children told The Associated Press. He was concerned that the main road to Nampula, an important trucking route, would soon be blocked.

He described "total devastation" affecting a 60-kilometer (37-mile) stretch of coastline and nearby islands.

Sudan's military rulers condemn attack on Islamist party

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Sudanese protest leaders held talks with the ruling military council on Sunday after the military condemned an attack on an Islamist party close to President Omar al-Bashir, who was removed from power and jailed earlier this month.

Dozens of protesters on Saturday surrounded a building where the Popular Congress Party was holding a meeting, chanting: "No place for Islamists."

The state-run SUNA news agency quoted party leader Idriss Suliman as saying that protesters attacked the party members as they left the building, wounding at least 64 people.

The party was established in the late 1990s by Hassan al-Turabi, the Sudanese Islamist who played a key role in the 1989 coup that brought al-Bashir to power. It is a symbol of the lingering power of al-Bashir's regime, which was built on a close alliance between the military and Islamists.

The deputy head of the military council, Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo—commonly known by his nickname Hemedti—accused the demonstrators of trying to set the building on fire. Security forces intervened to separate the two groups, he added, to avoid "a disaster."

The Sudanese Professionals Association, which spearheaded four months of overwhelmingly peaceful protests, condemned the violence.

Protest leaders demanding a speedy transition to civilian rule are now locked in a standoff with the military, which removed al-Bashir from office April 11 under pressure from the popular uprising. A military council has said it will rule the country for up to two years until elections can be organized.

The Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change, a coalition of opposition groups led by the SPA, is pushing for a transitional council that would include only limited army representation. The protesters fear that the military will cling to power or cut a deal with other parties to leave much of al-Bashir's regime intact.

The military has said it is open to "proportional" civilian representation in its council and the granting of executive powers to civilians. It has said it is consulting with all political factions except for al-Bashir's National Congress Party on the way forward.

Amjad Fareed, an SPA spokesman, said late Saturday the talks have focused on "the nature of the council, whether it is going to be a civilian council with some military representation or just military like the military council insists on. And how long is the transition process."

Two activists within the SPA said both sides have reached an "initial deal" to share power in the transitional council. They said Sunday's talks would focus on apportioning representation between the two sides. Both activists spoke on condition of anonymity as the talks are ongoing.

After Saturday's meeting, sources said that an agreement was reached in principle to form a joint civilian-military council, but not on the division of seats in the new body, with the military apparently insisting on a majority of seats.

Focus

Succession this week will shrink Japan's imperial heirs to 2

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's imperial family is relatively small and will shrink further in the coming years. Only one of Emperor Akihito's four grandchildren is a male who can ascend to the throne. The three princesses likely will lose their royal status eventually, since they are required to do so if they marry commoners. Akihito's daughter lost her imperial status after marrying a local government official.

A look at the imperial family as Akihito abdicates on Tuesday:

AP

Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko walk way from the stage after attending the awarding ceremony of the Midori Academic Prize Friday, April 26, 2019, in Tokyo.

EMPRESS MICHIKO, 84

Akihito's wife, born Michiko Shoda, is the daughter of a wealthy businessman who led the Nissin Flour Milling Co. She graduated from the University of the Sacred Heart with top honors in English literature and has written and translated children's books. Michiko met Akihito at a 1957 tennis tournament remembered as a "love match," and the couple married two years later. She was the first commoner to marry an emperor and was part of many changes Akihito brought to Japan's ancient monarchy. They broke tradition by raising their three children instead of leaving their care to palace staff. They traveled around Japan, reaching out to those with disabilities or other difficulties. When the couple met people coping with disasters, Michiko led the interactions, typically kneeling on the floor "Heisei style," named after Akihito's era.

CROWN PRINCE NARUHITO, 59

Naruhito, whose name in Chinese characters means a virtuous person, will ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne on Wednesday as the 126th emperor in a line dating to the fifth century. A historian and a viola player, Naruhito is Japan's first emperor-to-be to have studied abroad and could expand his role to global issues. He has pledged to inherit his father's devotion to peace and compassion for the people, while exploring his own style.

Naruhito married a Harvard-educated former diplomat, Masako. After graduating from Gakushuin, a private school for former aristocrats, Naruhito studied at Oxford University and authored a paper on the historical Thames River water transportation systems.

CROWN PRINCESS MASAKO, 53

Harvard-educated Masako Owada had a promising future as a diplomat when she captured Naruhito's eye at a 1986 tea party. It took Naruhito seven years of waiting, during which Masako studied at Oxford and refused him twice. She finally accepted his proposal and the two married in 1993.

Despite growing expectations that she may help modernize and internationalize the palace, Masako has largely receded from the public since the early 2000s after giving birth to daughter Aiko and developing stress-induced depression. In 2004, Naruhito subtly criticized the heated attention and pressure placed on Masako to produce a boy while depriving her of foreign visits. Naruhito says Masako is steadily recovering and hopes to gradually expand her role.

PRINCESS AIKO, 17

The only child of Naruhito and Masako would have been next in line to the throne if born in a gender-equal nation. But Japan's Imperial House Law only allows males to rule. As a child, Aiko enjoyed watching sumo and memorized wrestlers' names and ranks. Having parents who studied in Britain, Aiko has participated in a summer program at Eton College.

PRINCE FUMIHITO, 53

The younger of Akihito's two sons, Fumihito is better known as Akishino, his childhood title, and will be crown prince during Naruhito's reign. His future stint will be short, if at all, and there is speculation that Fumihito may skip his turn and hand it to his 12-year-old son, Prince Hisahito. Affectionately known as prince "catfish," his research subject, Fumihito has visited Thailand a number of times to study fisheries and the domestication of chickens.

He met his future wife, Kiko, at Gakushuin University, where both were students. Contrary to his brother's attentive team-player image, Fumihito is said to be free-spirited and outspoken, at times critical of his elder brother. He and Kiko have two daughters and a son.

PRINCESS KIKO, 52

Kiko, formerly Kiko Kawashima, grew up in the U.S. and Austria and lived in modest housing after returning to Japan. She was called the "apartment princess" when she married Fumihito in 1990. Twelve years after the couple had their second daughter, Kiko gave birth to Hisahito in 2006 amid intense attention on a possible male heir. Hisahito's birth halted a government debate on whether to change the succession rules to allow a female emperor.

PRINCE HISAHITO, 12

The only male of Akihito's four grandchildren, Hisahito will be second in line to the throne when the new era begins, and there is nobody left after him. The male-only succession rules maintained by the government and its right-wing supporters put him on the spot, with heavy pressure to produce a male heir. Akihito's abdication reminded the government of a need to resume discussion on how to maintain the royal population and a stable succession.

PRINCESS MAKO, 27

The oldest of Akihito's four grandchildren and sister of Hisahito, Mako has been a target of tabloid coverage due to her boyfriend's family debt scandal that pushed back their planned marriage to 2020 amid growing uncertainty. Her college classmate and boyfriend, Kei Komuro, is now studying law at Fordham University in New York.

PRINCESS KAKO, 24

The second-oldest of Akihito's grandchildren, Kako recently graduated from the International Christian University in Tokyo, where she studied psychology. She won't seek a job and is expected to take on official duties as a member of the royal family. Kako spent a year studying performing arts at Leeds University in Britain and enjoys hip-hop dancing. She has published photo books as her looks and fashion gained followers.

Key questions and answers about Japan emperor's abdication

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's 85-year-old Emperor Akihito ends his three-decade reign on Tuesday when he abdicates to his son Crown Prince Naruhito. He's the first emperor to abdicate in 200 years.

Some key questions and answers about the abdication and ascension and other examples abroad:

Q. Why is Akihito abdicating, and how is it different from usual successions?

A. Akihito, citing concerns about his age and declining health, expressed in August 2016 his wish to abdicate while he is still well and capable. As a constitutionally defined symbol with no political power, Akihito sought understanding in a message to his people, and immediately won overwhelming public support, paving the way for the government's approval.

With Japan's Imperial House Law lacking a provision on abdication by a reigning emperor and virtually allowing only posthumous succession, the government enacted a one-time law to allow Akihito's abdication, the first in 200 years. Palace watchers say Akihito wanted keep the emperor's presence always visible so it won't be veiled and politically used like his father's wartime role, while others say he tried to smooth the transition for his son. Winning his abdication was part of changes Akihito has brought to the palace: He was the first emperor to marry a commoner, Empress Michiko, and has decided to be cremated upon his death, a plan that would break a centuries-old burial custom.

Q. Who is next in line, and who's left?

A. Naruhito, who ascends the throne on Wednesday, is the elder of Akihito's two sons. A musician and avid hiker, 59-year-old Naruhito spent two years at Oxford and wrote a paper on the 18th century Thames River transport systems after studying history at Gakushuin University, a school formerly for aristocrats. His wife, Masako, a Harvard-educated former diplomat, is recovering from stress-induced conditions she developed after giving birth to their daughter Aiko amid pressure to produce a boy.

Aiko, 17, is barred from inheriting under Japan's male-only succession law, and the line goes to Naruhito's brother, Fumihito, better known by his childhood title, Akishino. Fumihito's son, Hisahito, 12, would be next. Discussions on changing the law to allow female succession quickly ended with Hisahito's birth, but they are expected to resume, with Akihito's abdication raising concerns about the family's future. Most Japanese support female succession despite opposition by conservatives in the government and its ultra-right-wing supporters, who want the family to be a model for a paternalistic society.

Q. What are the procedures to abdicate?

A. Akihito will announce his abdication in a palace ritual on Tuesday evening, but technically he remains the emperor until midnight, when his era of Heisei, or "achieving peace," ends and Naruhito takes over, his Reiwa era of "beautiful harmony" beginning. On Wednesday morning, Naruhito, in his first ritual as emperor, receives the Imperial regalia, including the sword and the jewel, as proof of his ascension to the throne. Aside from government officials, only adult male royals are allowed to attend, a tradition the government stuck with despite criticisms raised by the public.

The succession not by death has spread festivity across Japan, though the rituals are off-limits to the public and traffic will be tightly controlled outside the palace. A more elaborate enthronement ceremony for Naruhito will be held in October, when he will proclaim his ascension before officials and guests from inside and outside the country.

Q. What will Akihito do after abdication?

A. Akihito will hold a new title, Emperor Emeritus, but he will be fully retired from official duties and will no longer sign documents, receive foreign dignitaries, attend government events or perform palace rituals. He won't even attend his son's succession rituals and will largely recede from public appearances.

His activities will be strictly private so as not to interfere with the serving emperor. Akihito is expected to enjoy his retirement, going to museums and concerts, or spending time on his goby research at a seaside Imperial villa. After abdication, Akihito and Michiko will move to a temporary royal residence before eventually switching places with Naruhito after refurbishments at each place.

Q. What about abdications in other countries?

A. Japan's last abdication was about 200 years ago during the feudal Edo period, when Emperor Kokaku abdicated to his son Ninko while he ascended to a superior title. Abroad, Pope Benedict XVI, citing old age, abdicated to Pope Francis in 2013 at age 85, becoming the first pontiff to resign in 600 years. Spain's former King Juan Carlos abdicated at age 76 to King Felipe in 2014 amid scandals, and the succession laws to allow it were changed in just two weeks.

In the Netherlands in 2013, Queen Beatrix, citing old age at age 75, abdicated to her son Alexander, who became the country's first male successor in more than a century. In Belgium, the former King Albert II, then 79, abdicated to his son Philippe in 2013 due to health reasons. This year, Malaysia's King Sultan Muhammad V abruptly stepped down after just two years on the throne, the first abdication in the country's history.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

With the 2020 Jeep Gladiator, there's nothing to worry about

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TNS

Based on the Wrangler four-door SUV, the Gladiator comes as a five-passenger Crew Cab model that uses body-on-frame construction, a solid front and rear axle, with a five-foot steel cargo bed, fold-down tailgate and a best-in-class towing of 7,650 pounds.

SACRAMENTO, Calif.— One of the afflictions of modern life is the load of lifestyle debris we must lug even when running the simplest of errands. In most cases, it's more than Sir Edmund Hillary needed to conquer Mount Everest — and that's just for a trip to the Piggly Wiggly.

If you have young children, you'll need to bring along a baby stroller, baby wipes, diapers, formula, snacks, toys … well, you know the drill. Even older ones necessitate a mountain of items to keep them occupied.

It's worse if you're doing some recreational outdoor activity like cycling. This requires a bike rack, a bike helmet, a water bottle and cage to hold it, a Pump, spare tube, basic tools, chain oil, a cycle computer and a helmet. Camping? Kayaking? Hiking? Skiing? Add it all up and you'll realize that it's no wonder that a Jeep Wrangler is no longer sufficient for a simple day's outing.

Enter the 2020 Jeep Gladiator midsize pickup, wearing a name first used by Jeep in 1962, and the brand's first pickup since the 1992 Comanche. Based on the Wrangler four-door SUV, the Gladiator comes as a five-passenger Crew Cab model that uses body-on-frame construction, a solid front and rear axle, with a five-foot steel cargo bed, fold-down tailgate and a best-in-class towing of 7,650 pounds. In other words, it can handle all the lifestyle you can throw at it, along with the requisite dross.

Company officials insist that this isn't merely a Wrangler with a bed slapped on the back. Engineers stretched the wheelbase to handle the weight and handling characteristics that come with a five-foot bed. They also enlarged the classic seven-slot grille for optimal cooling and used aluminum on the doors, hinges, hood, fenders, windshield frame and tailgate to pare weight and boost fuel efficiency.

You have to wonder what took them so long. Hello, McFly? This one's a no brainer.

When you can inject Jeep DNA into a pickup, you get a truly righteous ride, one with a folding windshield, removable doors and a removable hardtop or folding soft-top. It's pretty sweet, especially since it can handle any terrain, be it the Trail-Rated Rubicon model or its siblings, base Sport model and midline Overland.

Being a Jeep, it has up to 30 inches of ground clearance and can ford 30 inches of water while providing an approach angle of 43.6 degrees and a departure angle of 26 degrees. To prove it, the test drive included soggy off-road trails, craggy rock-covered slopes and curvy back-mountain roads.

When you are going off-road, the Gladiator Rubicon makes it easy thanks to its Rock-Trac four-wheel-drive system with a transfer case low-range gear ratio of 4:1, Tru-Lok differentials, heavy-duty Dana 44 axles and a feature that disables the anti-sway bar when extra articulation is called for. It's no wonder the Gladiator proved true to its name, handling any off-road situation with an unassailable confidence. And while you'd expect to handle the worst off-road trails imaginable, it's the vehicle's on-road civility that truly surprises, particularly in Sport and Overland trim. There's a surprising lack of excess body motion through corners and an amazing ability to soak up the worst that America's crumbling infrastructure can throw at it.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **Base prices:** $33,545-$43,545
- **Engine:** 3.6-liter DOHC V-6
- **Horsepower:** 285
- **Torque:** 260 pound-feet
- **EPA fuel economy (city-/highway):** 17 mpg/22 mpg
- **Wheelbase:** 137.3 inches
- **Length:** 218 inches
- **Box volume:** 35.5 cubic feet
- **Payload:** 1,600 pounds
- **Towing capacity:** 4,000-7,650 pounds
- **Ground clearance:** 10-11.1 inches (Rubicon)
- **Curb weight:** 4,650-5,072 pounds

Powering the Gladiator is Chrysler's familiar 285-horsepower 3.6-liter V-6 mated to a six-speed manual transmission or optional eight-speed automatic. Command-Trac four-wheel drive is offered on Sport and Overland models, although fuel economy never seemed to break 20 mpg. If that's not enough, you'll have to wait for the upcoming 3.0-liter diesel V-6 engine.

And being a modern Jeep, it keeps you connected thanks to an abundance of USB and USB-C ports, a center-mounted touchscreen and an optional camera that reveals what's ahead of or underneath the vehicle. There's also a storage bin underneath the rear seat, as well as a bolt bin to hold the removable hardtop's bolts.

Yes, it's quite impressive, and a long overdue return for a Jeep the faithful have long been clamoring for. Nevertheless, scratching this itch will cost you, with prices starting at $33,545 and easily reaching more that $50,000 fully equipped. That's quite a bit more than other four-wheel-drive pickups of similar size. Then again, none of them are Jeeps.

So, if you opt for the Gladiator, you won't have to worry about bad weather or lousy roads, but you might have to worry about making the payment. For most people, this means they'll have nothing to worry about.

How will they ever sell them?

The shape of car technologies to come

I was fortunate recently to attend a technical presentation at Valeo's Mobility Tech Center in San Mateo, Calif. Valeo, based in Paris, is a leading supplier of autonomous driving, powertrain, thermal and visibility systems to the OEMs (original equipment manufacturers).

I learned a lot about the amazing array of sensors employed in ADA (advanced driver assistance) and autonomous vehicles, including ultrasonic, camera, radar and, most importantly, LIDAR (light detection and ranging) laser scanners, which provide a detailed 360 degree view around the vehicle. Calculation algorithms, artificial intelligence and geo location/mapping, coupled with deep learning put this all together to create a 3D model of the vehicle's surroundings, including predicted trajectories of other vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians, in order to make the best vehicle control decisions.

Vehicles on display included their Drive4U autonomous and Drive4u Remote Range Rovers, the latter being capable of fully driverless operation. A video demonstration was also provided of the Voyage XR. Grandma, in Dubuque, wearing a VR headset, can ride along with you, enjoying a spectacular 360 degree view as you drive through the Canyonlands of Utah!

Another pretty cool technology was ExtraView Trailer, which uses cameras on the trailer and tow vehicle to create a see-through/invisible trailer effect, allowing the driver to see everything astern and to the side, as if the trailer wasn't there.

Other technologies include 48 volt powertrain systems, which allow hybrid and small vehicle propulsion at significantly less cost than the more common high voltage powertrains in use. Electric superchargers and other technologies can also be employed to further enhance a vehicle's powertrain efficiency, reducing CO2 and other emissions.

Comfort systems were also demonstrated, with a thermal comfort bubble adapted to each vehicle passenger. Biosensors and cameras are used to assess the thermal profile of each passenger based on heart and breathing rates, clothing, age, gender, and body type in order to fine-tune the vehicle's climate control system zones. Mist dispensers and radiant panels can also be used to quickly fine-tune each passenger's comfort, as well as adaptable ambient colors to enhance comfort perception; warm shades for heat and pale for cool. Wild!

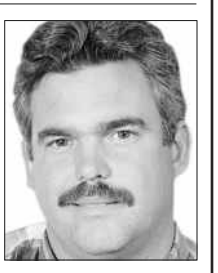
MyMobius is another advanced technology that can be employed to better connect human and machine. The system learns a driver's habits to anticipate his or her needs, customize the onboard environment and enhance safety. Sensors and connectivity modules send information to the cloud for processing, and the results are used to activate vehicle functions without the need for user intervention.

Finally, one of Valeo's main missions is to improve air quality and mitigate exposure to harmful emissions. In addition to implementing low-emission powertrain systems, a network of emissions-sensing vehicles can provide real-time information to urban planners/managers in order to manage vehicle routing. Consumers can also view urban pollution maps on their smart phones, much like traffic maps, to avoid certain areas at certain times. An onboard OxyZen system can purify and ionize cabin air, which can be as much as four times more polluted than outside air.

It's up to the carmakers to decide which of these amazing technologies to include in their vehicles and how well to implement it. And it's up to us as consumers to decide how much is too much to desire and afford!

UNDER THE HOOD

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service



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Life & Style

AP
This image released by Disney shows, from left, Brie Larson, Scarlett Johansson, Don Cheadle, Chris Hemsworth, Chris Evans and the character Rocket, voiced by Bradley Cooper, in a scene from "Avengers: Endgame."

'Avengers: Endgame' obliterates records with $1.2B opening

NEW YORK (AP)—The universe belongs to Marvel. "Avengers: Endgame" shattered the record for biggest opening weekend with an estimated $350 million in ticket sales domestically and $1.2 billion globally, reaching a new pinnacle in the blockbuster era that the comic-book studio has come to dominate.

The "Avengers" finale far exceeded even its own gargantuan expectations, according to studio estimates Sunday. The movie had been forecast to open between $260 million and $300 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters, but moviegoers turned out in such droves that "Endgame" blew past the previous record of $257.7 million, set last year by "Avengers: Infinity War" when it narrowly surpassed "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" ($248 million or about $266 million in inflation adjusted dollars.)

"Endgame" was just as enormous overseas. Worldwide, it obliterated the previous record of $640.5 million, also set by "Infinity War." ("Infinity War" didn't open in China, the world's second largest movie market, until two weeks after its debut.) "Endgame" set a new weekend record in China, too, where it made $330.5 million.

In one fell swoop, "Endgame" has already made more than movies like "Skyfall," ″Aquaman" and "The Dark Knight Rises" grossed in their entire runs, not accounting for inflation.

Alan Horn, Disney chairman, credited Marvel Studios and its president, Kevin Feige, for challenging "notions of what is possible at the movie theater."

"This weekend's monumental success is a testament to the world they've envisioned, the talent involved, and their collective passion, matched by the irrepressible enthusiasm of fans around the world," Horn said in a statement.

To accommodate demand, the Walt Disney Co. released "Endgame" in more theaters—4,662 in the U.S. and Canada—than any opening before. Advance ticketing services set new records. Early ticket buyers crashed AMC's website. And starting Thursday, some theaters even stayed open 72 hours straight.

"We've got some really tired staff," said John Fithian, president and chief executive of the National Association of Theater Owners. "I talked to an exhibitor in Kansas who said, 'I've never sold out a 7 a.m. show on Saturday morning before,' and they were doing it all across their circuit."

Not working in the film's favor was its lengthy running time: 181 minutes. But theaters kept added thousands of showings for "Endgame" to get it on more screens than any movie before to satiate the frenzy around "Endgame." Joe and Anthony Russo's film ties together the "Avengers" storyline as well as the previous 21 releases of the Marvel "cinematic universe," begun with 2008′s "Iron Man."

For an industry dogged by uncertainty over the growing role of streaming, the weekend was a mammoth display of the movie theater's lucrative potency. Fithian called it possibly "the most significant moment in the modern history of the movie business."

"We're looking at more than 30 million American and more than 100 million global guests that experienced 'Endgame' on the big screen in one weekend," Fithian said. "The numbers are just staggering."

Further boosting the results for "Endgame" were good reviews; it currently ranks as 96% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes, the best rating for any Marvel movie aside from "Black Panther." Audiences gave the film an A-plus CinemaScore.

Single-handedly, "Endgame" led the overall weekend at the domestic box office to a record $400 million in ticket sales, according to Comscore. "Endgame" accounted for a staggering 88% of those tickets. The film's grosses were aided by 3-D screenings (a record $540 million in global ticket sales) and IMAX screenings (a company record $91.5 million).

"Our partners in exhibition have done a great job with us on this film. As they saw the need, they opened up screens," said Cathleen Taft, distribution chief for Disney. "While there may have been a concern—Is there going to be enough seats available?—I think that exhibition met that demand and rose to the occasion."

But if there was any shadow to the weekend for the theatrical business, it was in just how reliant theaters have grown on one studio: Disney.

Disney now holds all but one of the top 12 box-office openings of all time. (Universal's "Jurassic World" is the lone exception.) The studio is poised for a record-breaking year, with releases including "Aladdin," ″Toy Story 4," ″The Lion King," ″Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" and "Frozen 2" on the horizon.

Following its acquisition of 20th Century Fox, Disney is expected to account for at least 40% of domestic box-office revenue in 2019, a new record of market share. The company's "Captain Marvel"—positioned as a kind of Marvel lead-in to "Endgame"—also rose to No. 2 on the weekend, eight weeks after it opened. (The 22 films of Marvel's "cinematic universe" have collectively earned $19.9 billion at the box office.)

Yet theater owners regularly speak of a "halo effect" around a movie like "Endgame." Such sensations draw in new moviegoers and expose millions to a barrage of movie trailers.

"This has got to be the biggest weekend in popcorn history," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "Think of the gallons of soda and the hot dogs sold. This is going to continue all week and beyond. This is going to have long-term playability for sure."

An enormous hit was much needed for a box office that, coming into the weekend, was lagging 16% of the pace of last year's ticket sales, according to Comscore. "Endgame" moved the needle to negative 13.3% but the boost was less significant since "Infinity War" opened on the same weekend in 2018.

No other new wide release dared to open against "Endgame." Warner Bros.′ "The Curse of La Llorona," last week's top movie, slid to third with $7.5 million.

The guessing game will now shift to just how much higher "Endgame" can go. Given its start, it's likely to rival the top three worldwide grossers: "The Force Awakens" ($2.068 billion in 2015), "Titanic ($2.187 billion in 1997) and "Avatar" ($2.788 in 2009).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.lion.

1. **"Avengers: Endgame,"** $350 million ($859 million international).
2. **"Captain Marvel,"** $8.1 million.
3. **"The Curse of La Llorona,"** $7.5 million.
4. **"Breakthrough,"** $6.3 million.
5. **"Shazam!"** $5.5 million.
6. **"Little,"** $3.4 million.
7. **"Dumbo,"** $3.2 million.
8. **"Pet Sematary,"** $1.3 million.
9. **"Us,"** $1.1 million.
10. **"Penguins,"** $1.1 million.

Spoiler Alert: LeSean McCoy tweets out Avengers movie plot

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—If you haven't done it already, and you're on social media, mute LeSean McCoy's account.

The Buffalo Bills running back proved to be a one-man spoiler in tweeting out a significant occurrence in the newly released movie, "Avengers: End Game," shortly after it premiered.

The tweets didn't go unnoticed, especially among Bills fans. Rather than eagerly trying to search out any possible news on who the Bills might select with their two draft picks in the second and third rounds on Friday, they instead learned a key plot twist.

The reaction to McCoy's tweets was so swift, it began trending on social media, and became its own "Twitter Moment."

Twitter posted a thread titled, "LeSean McCoy makes an enemy out of every fan who hasn't seen Avengers yet," and included several spoiler alert warnings.

The thread then featured several reactions to McCoy's tweets.

Jake Bencie, of Indiana, posted a note asking the NFL to suspend McCoy, while adding he hoped "the Bills don't win a game this season."

Sara Cichon of Buffalo posted a message that read: "YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY SPOILER ALERT!!!!!! I wish I could unsee this tweet...this is a horrible day now."

And an account named BetTheOver concluded: "Just forced me to buy a Yeldon jersey with that tweet," in reference to running back T.J. Yeldon, who signed with the Bills on Monday.

Prince Harry's transformation: The kid's all right

LONDON (AP)—Princess Diana's little boy—the red-haired prince with the mischievous smile and his mother's wild streak—is about to become a father.

The arrival any day now of Prince Harry's and American wife Meghan's first child will complete his public transformation into the admirable and modern family man who took his grandmother's crown last year as Britain's most popular royal.

Confidence, a sense of humor and a fun-loving personality are some of the qualities the public sees in Harry, according to a U.K. polling company's rolling online surveys.

Those old enough to remember his coming of age - watching him grow from a child swimming in palace trappings to a rebellious teen, from an army officer speaking up for rank-and-file soldiers to a ginger-bearded groom - can't help but take some pleasure in the expectant father's next milestone.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, the titles conferred on the prince and his bride by Harry's grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, have tried to keep plans for Baby Sussex's birth veiled in privacy. Kensington Palace didn't give a due date, saying only that it would be in the spring.

The news cameras that chronicled every awkward moment and misstep of his difficult adolescence often captured Harry at his best when he was doing charity work that involved playing with or comforting children.

His natural ease with young ones invited obvious questions. The prince acknowledged in general terms that he looked forward to having children of his own. It's clear from his quiet smile whenever Harry, 34, and Meghan, 37, are out together that he is treasuring the time now that he will.

His circle-of-life moment also closes a familiar cycle of ruin, rebirth and redemption for the exceptionally privileged and unremarkably flawed family he joined as His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales on Sept. 15, 1984.

Harry was the proverbial "spare" to older brother Prince William's heir-to-the-throne role as the firstborn child of Diana and Prince Charles, the queen's eldest. By the time he was born, his parents' marriage was already in trouble. They separated when he was 8.

In this Monday, Feb. 25, 2019 file photo, Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex visit the Andalusian Gardens in Rabat, Morocco, Monday, Feb. 25, 2019. AP

In the four bitter years before the divorce, Charles and Diana both acknowledged extramarital affairs. Charles' was with a married woman he had had a relationship with before he married Diana, Camilla Parker-Bowles. She has now been his second wife, and William and Harry's stepmother, since 2005. Diana's was with an army officer who was her horse riding instructor.

Harry suffered an almost unimaginable loss when Diana died in a Paris car crash in 1997. Millions around the world watched the funeral, and his pain.

The image is indelible: a 12-year-old Harry walking in the funeral procession behind his mother's casket, his face set in angry stone days after she died in a car crash while being pursued by paparazzi in Paris.

Harry has acknowledged that Diana's death and the aftermath set him on a destructive path.

"My mother had just died, and I had to walk a long way behind her coffin, surrounded by thousands of people watching me, while millions more did on television," Harry told Newsweek magazine as the 20th anniversary of that day was approaching. "I don't think any child should be asked to do that, under any circumstances. I don't think it would happen today."

He was angry, he told Newsweek, as well as adrift as he fought to break his royal bonds so he could live the "ordinary life" his late mother tried hard to show her two princes.

That's another chapter of the story. In his late teens and his 20s, Harry had to publicly apologize for engaging in crude antics that were normal for his school and army buddies but earned a prince embarrassing coverage in British tabloids.

His elders issued a statement acknowledging Harry had smoked marijuana - more than once. He was photographed wearing Nazi gear at a costume party, recorded using racist terms.

The 2012 "strip billiards" incident in Las Vegas, where Harry was photographed nude with a female companion, only added to the perception of an entitled prince who knew no boundaries.

In the past two years, Harry has spoken out about mental health issues and the need for better treatment throughout Britain, using his own experience as an example.

Harry's willingness to air his demons in public and jettison the royal tradition of keeping a stiff upper lip about personal problems has seemed to raise his stature with Britons.

As part of a campaign to end the stigma surrounding mental health problems, he told The Daily Telegraph in 2017 he "shut down all his emotions" for nearly 20 years after his mother's sudden death and had been "very close to a complete breakdown" and "on the verge of punching someone" on numerous occasions.

He said only by entering therapy at William's urging was he able to come to grips with his suppressed grief about losing his mother at such a young age. He said he took up boxing as an outlet for aggression.

Candidness about his own struggles isn't the only reason for Harry's steady rise in stature. During 10 years as an army officer, he served in Afghanistan twice, including a tour piloting a helicopter.

Harry's military experience led to the cause he brought to life with clear passion and no qualms for once about using his palace connections: the Invictus Games, his concept of an Olympics-style sports competition for injured and disabled military men and women.

The 2017 games in Toronto is where he chose to make his first official appearance with Meghan Markle, a divorced actress with whom he was clearly besotted. The couple kissed and cuddled for the cameras Harry had so long resented.

When they attended the next year's Invictus Games in Sydney as newlyweds, Harry mentioned Meghan's pregnancy at both the opening and closing ceremonies. A compassionate man anticipating contentment had emerged from a brittle shell.

Flashes of anger still surface in defense of the woman he loves. His rebellious side hasn't gone away, either, but has become part of what his fans find intriguing.

In recent days, he and Meghan announced their newborn would not be making his or her public appearance on its first day in the world, a custom observed by his parents and William and his wife, Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge.

They also haven't confirmed or denied speculation that Baby Sussex will be born at home at Frogmore Cottage, located near Windsor Castle.

John Singleton's daughter disputes that he's in a coma

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The daughter of "Boyz N the Hood" director John Singleton disputed his mother's account that he's in a coma in a court filing Friday, saying that he's recovering from an April 17 stroke.

Cleopatra Singleton, 19, said in the declaration filed in Los Angeles Superior Court that doctors are still determining the condition of her 51-year-old father, who has been in a Los Angeles hospital since an April 17 stroke.

"My father is not in a coma," Cleopatra Singleton writes in the document. She adds that although doctors "do not have a concrete diagnosis, my dad is progressing every day ... My father is breathing on his own. He is only medically sedated to keep his blood pressure low and allow the vessels in his brain to heal."

Cleopatra Singleton said her father's mother, Shelia Ward, is misrepresenting his condition as she seeks to become his conservator and make medical and financial decisions for him.

A form from a doctor at Singleton's hospital filed with the court by Ward's lawyer Thursday says John Singleton is incapacitated and can't make his own decisions, but it doesn't address whether he's in a coma.

Cleopatra Singleton opposes her grandmother becoming conservator, and she suggests another family member, possibly his father or eldest son, assume the role.

An email to Ward's attorney seeking comment Friday was not immediately answered.

The filing suggests a rift between Singleton's mother and children that precedes his stroke.

Cleopatra Singleton, who is a college sophomore at Xavier University of Louisiana, writes that her grandmother has acted as her son's personal and business manager since the beginning of his film career, and she has mismanaged his affairs.

"She has abused this position particularly pertaining to the support of his children," the court filing says. "Sadly my father's allowed his mother to stay in that position out of fear and obligation to her."

Shelia Ward had asked in the court Thursday to immediately appoint her as conservator, saying essential financial moves must be made by the end of the month or her son will suffer significant losses.

The daughter's opposition makes an immediate decision from a judge unlikely and could point to a longer court fight.

John Singleton was nominated for an Oscar for 1991's "Boyz N the Hood." His other films include "Poetic Justice," starring Janet Jackson, and his recent projects include the TV series "Snowfall."

His friends, colleagues and admirers were wishing him well as word of his poor health spread.

Shonda Rhimes, the Rev. Al Sharpton and fellow director Ava DuVernay were among those offering prayers on Twitter.

"Lifting my highest thoughts + prayers of intercession for John Singleton," DuVernay said in a tweet that included photos of the two directors together. "His films helped form me. His kindness lifted me up. I remember him coming to the premiere of my indie years ago. Showing love/support for a fellow black director from LA. He is a lovely man. Pray with me."

Sigourney Weaver helps school celebrate 'Alien' production

NORTH BERGEN, N.J. (AP)—Sigourney Weaver helped make a New Jersey high school's encore stage production of "Alien" a special event.

"Alien: The Play" had drawn widespread praise after videos and images of the performances at North Bergen High School were posted online.

Among those applauding the show was Weaver, who played the character Ellen Ripley in the 1979 movie that spawned a franchise, and the film's director, Ridley Scott, who applauded the students' creativity and the show's elaborate sets and special effects.

Weaver had taped a YouTube video this year in which she called the production "incredible." But she was at the school Friday to watch the encore performance herself, telling the crowd before the curtain rose that "this is the night I've been waiting for."

MoviePass rival Sinemia kills US movie theater subscriptions

NEW YORK (AP)—There's another casualty among companies offering movies in theaters for a set monthly fee.

Sinemia says it's discontinuing operations in the U.S., just months after it started a movie-a-day plan to fill a void left by the fall of MoviePass. Sinemia representatives had no comment on whether the service would offer refunds to customers, some of whom paid upfront for the year.

Both services were financially unsustainable as they paid theaters full prices for tickets, while charging customers as little as $10 a month. Sinemia's cheaper plans for one to three movies a month are ending, too.

What remains are subscriptions offered directly by theater chains, as they can still make money from popcorn and candy. AMC started one last June, while Alamo Drafthouse is testing one.

National Comedy Center to digitize Lucille Ball archives

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—Handwritten notes and family photographs belonging to Lucille Ball will be digitally preserved as part of a new project being undertaken by the National Comedy Center in the late actress's hometown.

The center in western New York announced plans Friday to digitize the archives of the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum in marking the 30th anniversary of the "I Love Lucy" star's death.

Much of the material, which also includes behind-the-scenes production papers and telegrams, has never been exhibited. Museum officials say it will be made available in the coming years.

The interactive National Comedy Center opened last summer near the existing Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum. The interactive National Comedy Center builds on Ball's vision for a museum that celebrates all comedy as an art form.

Chicago's top prosecutor subpoenaed in Jussie Smollett case

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago's top prosecutor has been subpoenaed to appear in court by a retired appellate judge who's pushing for a special prosecutor to investigate the handling of the case against actor Jussie Smollett.

The Chicago Sun-Times reports that Sheila O'Brien also subpoenaed Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx's top deputy and requested that Smollett appear at a hearing on her request.

Foxx was harshly criticized when her office announced it was dropping charges against Smollett that accused the black, gay actor of staging a racist and anti-gay attack on himself in downtown Chicago.

Foxx has defended the decision to drop the charges and says she welcomes an independent investigation.

Ahead of 'The Irishman,' Scorsese and De Niro look back

NEW YORK (AP)—Ahead of their much-anticipated and most recent collaboration, "The Irishman," Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro convened at the Tribeca Film Festival to look back on their long partnership together.

The talk, staged Sunday at New York's Beacon Theatre, gave De Niro, co-founder of the festival, one of his most unlikely roles to date: interviewer. With interstitial clips chosen by Scorsese from the director's filmography, the famously terse actor didn't so much pepper or prod the filmmaker as occasionally announce it was time to discuss "the next one."

But if the conversation relied largely on Scorsese, it still offered a window into their long-running collaboration. Begun with 1973's "Mean Streets" and stretching over nine feature films, it's one of the most famous director-actor pairs in cinema. One of Scorsese's other regulars, Leonardo DiCaprio, was among the full crowd, eager to see the legendary New York duo together.

"The Irishman," which Netflix will release this fall, is their latest gangster film together, following "Mean Streets," "Goodfellas" and "Casino." It's based on the 2003 book "I Heard You Paint Houses" by Charles Brandt, which recounts the life of mob hitman Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran (played by De Niro). Al Pacino plays Jimmy Hoffa, whose disappearance some have traced to Sheeran.

"It's in the milieu of the pictures we've done together and are known for, in a sense, but I hope from a different vantage point," said Scorsese. "Years have gone by and we see things in a special way, I hope."

Though its release is months away, "The Irishman"—one of Netflix's biggest-budgeted films yet—has already become the new flash point of the ongoing battle between Netflix and movie theaters. The major chains have refused to play releases that don't abide to the traditional exclusive 90-day theatrical window. Netflix has said that doesn't serve the interests of its millions of members.

How Scorsese will navigate those divisions is being closely watched. The 76-year-old filmmaker is among the most respected in movies, and has long been a devoted advocate of film history and film preservation.

AP

Actor Robert De Niro, left, and director Martin Scorsese attend "Tribeca Talks - Director Series - Martin Scorsese with Robert De Niro" during the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival at the Beacon Theatre on Sunday, April 28, 2019, in New York.

The director didn't wade into those issues Sunday, but he spoke about how "Irishman" reverberates with themes that have long propelled him. "Casino," he said, relates to what he considers a current "cultural explosion."

"It's the old story: How much is enough?" said Scorsese. "It has to do with our foibles and our pride. It just so happens (to be told with) gangsters and killers and prostitutes and gamblers."

Scorsese said that "The Irishman" will, like "Casino" did with the score from Jean-Luc Godard's "Contempt," include music from another film. He also said his last feature, "Silence," his 2016 religion epic about Jesuit priests in feudal Japan, connects with "The Irishman."

"Terry Malick wrote me a letter when he saw the picture. He said: 'What does Christ want from us?'" said Scorsese. "In the old neighborhood, I saw some of the people doing terrible things. But they still had something in them. They cared for each other."

"This film comes out of that and our new feature comes out of that," he added. "It's right there."

Scorsese is also prepping the release of his documentary "Rolling Thunder Revue: A Bob Dylan Story," which will debut on Netflix on June 12. The film will play in a concurrent Oscar-qualifying release in a handful of theaters, as well as "road show" screenings the night before release in some 20 cities.

Friend refuses to help plan dinner she's not invited to

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend of 40 years has asked me to fly to her son's wedding in a few months, arrive early to help with everything and not be included in the rehearsal dinner. I explained that I'm not going to spend more than $1,000 to fly out early, stay in a hotel, rent a car and not attend the dinner I've helped set up, decorate, etc. She said she's not inviting out-of-town guests to the rehearsal dinner, and it's family only. She then uninvited me to the wedding and hung up on me! We haven't spoken since.

Am I crazy or was she, for expecting me to go work my behind off and leave before the guests arrive?

NO ONE'S SLAVE

DEAR NO ONE'S: What happened proves the truth of the adage that weddings and funerals can bring out the worst in people. Your friend's request was insensitive and rude, and she should be ashamed of herself. You would have been more than "an out-of-town guest," and you should have been thanked for your efforts AT THE DINNER.

DEAR ABBY: I've dated a guy for three months now, and I still can't be completely open with him. I am afraid the real me isn't that likable, so I have become less talkative in this relationship.

Each time we go out, he's always the talker, and when sometimes I want to say something, I clam up. I like him a lot, and I don't like myself being this way. I am outgoing and talkative when I'm with my friends. I LIKE the way I am when I am with them because I feel free and relaxed.

He has started to complain about my quietness, and it's upsetting. Each time he mentions it, I feel like I'm exposed. Should I continue this relationship?

NOT QUIET IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR NOT QUIET: Don't look now, but your self-esteem appears to be sagging. Stop hiding in a self-imposed "closet" and show this person who you really are! Whether the relationship survives the disclosure I can't guess, but I have a premonition that he will like you even better than he has for the last three months.

DEAR ABBY: I have a limited income with which I support myself and my four children. When it comes to clothing, my kids' needs obviously come first, and most of my money goes to buying their clothes. The majority of mine come from clothing banks.

My problem is, when someone compliments me on an outfit I'm wearing and asks where I got it, I don't know what to say. I'm embarrassed to say it's from a clothing bank, but at the same time I don't like lying. Any suggestions?

SMALLTOWN POOR

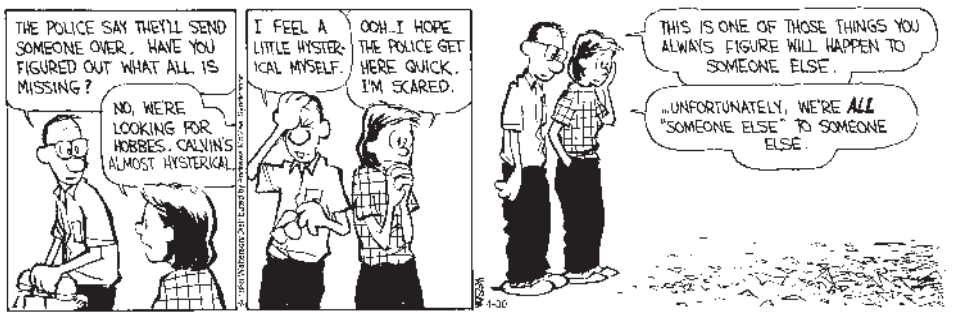
DEAR SMALLTOWN POOR: I do have one. When you are complimented on an item of clothing, say thank you. And if the person asks where you bought it, say it was given to you. It's the truth. It was given to you at the clothing bank.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THE POLICE SAY THEY'LL SEND SOMEONE OVER. HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT WHAT ALL IS MISSING?
NO, WE'RE LOOKING FOR HOBBES. CALVIN'S ALMOST HYSTERICAL.
I FEEL A LITTLE HYSTERICAL MYSELF.
OOH..I HOPE THE POLICE GET HERE QUICK. I'M SCARED.
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS YOU ALWAYS FIGURE WILL HAPPEN TO SOMEONE ELSE.
...UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE ALL "SOMEONE ELSE" TO SOMEONE ELSE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

MY UNCLE CLARENCE WAS A CIRCUS CLOWN
HE RETIRED LAST YEAR
THIRTY OF HIS BUDDIES CAME TO HIS RETIREMENT PARTY IN ONE CAR
ONCE A CLOWN, ALWAYS A CLOWN
ALBUM
JIM DAVIS 4-30

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD WAS LISTENING TO PUNK MUSIC THIS MORNING.
SOUNDS RIGHT.
DAD? PUNK? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
OH, YOUR DAD WAS REALLY INTO THAT WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER.
ADAM NEWMAN? MR. NAPS?
THERE'S AN ANGRY YOUNG MAN BURIED UNDER ALL THAT 'DAD'
4.30

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

OUR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION IS RAISING OUR DUES TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPIER, THIS SAYS.
HOW IS INCREASING OUR DUES GOING TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPIER?
WELL, THEY SAY THEY'LL BE ABSOLUTELY GIDDY ABOUT IT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Slightly wet
5 Wild canine
9 Yoga pad
12 Close
13 Actress Perlman
14 Green prefix
15 Requiring low temperatures
17 Moo — pork
18 Boy, in Barcelona
19 Big name in racing
21 Antlered animals
24 Jubilation
25 Billions of years
26 German
30 Aachen article
31 Postpone
32 Wildebeest
33 Romance-free, as a relationship
35 Head, to Henri
36 Sweet wine
37 King of Judea
38 Snapshot
40 Graceful bird
42 Slithery fish
43 Looking good on the tube, say
48 Part of TNT
49 Lettuce unit
50 Turner or Fey
51 Billboards
52 Evergreens
53 Crisp cookie

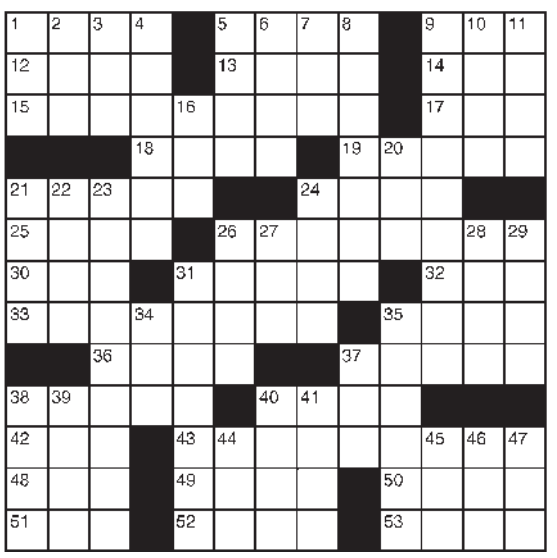
DOWN

1 Org. for a major party
2 — Lingus
3 Spring month
4 Plug parts
5 Wee songbird
6 "It can't be!"
7 Floral necklace
8 Teaching staff
9 Courier
10 Dull pain
11 Go sightseeing
16 USO patrons
20 Ultramodernist
21 Leak out slowly
22 Work hard
23 Maryland's capital
24 Avocado dip, for short
26 Camp shelter
27 Peyton's brother
28 Grooving on
29 Prompted
31 Girl in "The Wizard of Oz"
34 Nanny's charge
35 Beliefs
37 Crone
38 Anti-fur org.
39 Cattle group
40 Cabbage salad
41 Marries
44 Shoe width
45 Diarist Anaïs
46 — tizzy
47 Bottle top

Solution time: 22 mins.

L	Y	L	E		M	G	M		C	A	P	S
T	E	A	L	E	C	N	I		A	V	E	C
R	A	V	E	N	C	U	S		R	E	N	O
			V		N		S	C	U	P	A	T
S	P	I	C	D		L	I	D	S			
S	O	O	N		R	A	V	I	O	L		
T	U	T		T	E	N	E	T		A	P	B
	R	A	V		N	E	S		C	I	A	Y
			F	F	T	S		S	I	I	A	D	F
T	A	R	I	F	F		E	T	A			
O	M	E	N		R	A	V	I	S	H	E	D
O	B	I	E		E	V	E	R	M	O	R	E
K	I	N	D		E	E	N		S	E	A	N

Yesterday's answer 4-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dianna Agron, 33; Kirsten Dunst, 37; Kunal Nayyar, 38; Johnny Galecki, 44.

Happy Birthday: Don't lose sight of your original goals. Times are changing, and keeping up will be necessary in order to make the best choices personally, professionally and financially. Sticking to a plan and practicality will be your tickets to success. Take care of matters as they arise to avoid getting bogged down when opportunities come your way. Your numbers are 2, 9, 17, 26, 31, 34, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep moving forward, regardless of what others do. If faced with emotional manipulation, walk away and do your own thing. Getting involved in other people's problems will have consequences that can affect your reputation. Be nice, be humble and be careful. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep private information to yourself. Getting involved in a deal for the wrong reason will backfire. Check your motives as well as the motives of those you are dealing with. Make whatever you decide to do count. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Being realistic and honest about what you can do will help you avoid setbacks. Putting more energy and time into important relationships and personal improvements will bring the highest returns. Walk away from deceptive individuals. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Trust your intuition, not what you hear. Gossip will lead to trouble, but doing what you can to help a cause or someone in need will boost your reputation and bring you self-satisfaction. Don't let an emotional relationship hold you back. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A change someone else makes shouldn't prompt you to follow suit. Consider what you want, and turn your plans into a reality. Opportunity begins within yourself. Take charge of your life, and put in the time necessary to reach your objective. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep a low profile and a set destination in mind. If you stay focused on what you want to achieve, you won't be disappointed. Don't let anyone distract you or tempt you with something that is costly or unhealthy. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Learn and experiment with concepts. A partnership can be advantageous as long as you keep the peace and strive for equality. Romance is on the rise and can ward off negativity or criticism from someone you love. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Try something new, but don't let anyone talk you into overspending or taking on too much. Consider how best to use your skills to get the results you want. A change of plans can make or break a partnership. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep moving forward, make positive adjustments at home and avoid anyone who is tempting you to do things that are risky or unsafe. Focus on partnerships, love, romance and personal improvements. Say less and do more. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep busy, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results you get. Remember the past, but don't let it define who you are now. Live in the moment, and head toward the future with positive intentions. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Physical and mental activities or challenges will be good for you as long as you don't overdo it. Gauge what's feasible and what isn't, and know when to say no or take a break. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Walk away from situations that are impossible. Wasting time on someone or something that is inflexible won't solve the problem. Be progressive, and do your best to set a good example for others. Make physical improvements to the way you live. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, changeable and ambitious. You are perceptive and persuasive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1		8				
	2	9	7	6	5			
9								1
1	6						4	5
	4			3			1	
5	8						7	9
7								2
		5	6	1	3	8		
			8		7			

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	7	8	4	6	1	9	3	2
1	9	2	3	7	5	8	4	6
3	6	4	9	2	8	7	1	5
7	4	3	6	1	2	5	9	8
2	1	5	8	9	4	6	7	3
6	8	9	7	5	3	4	2	1
8	2	1	5	4	7	3	6	9
4	5	6	1	3	9	2	8	7
9	3	7	2	8	6	1	5	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ICE DRILLING **Solution:** 10 letters

E	E	B	N	O	I	S	N	E	M	I	D	R	R	I
R	R	T	H	E	R	M	A	L	R	I	A	L	P	S
U	U	U	A	T	D	I	L	O	S	L	E	U	F	T
S	S	D	T	M	W	L	T	S	O	B	L	A	D	E
S	A	I	M	A	I	A	O	S	L	O	P	E	R	R
E	E	R	O	C	R	L	T	A	H	M	E	P	O	U
R	M	E	T	Y	V	E	C	E	U	E	I	I	S	T
P	S	C	O	E	A	F	P	P	R	G	E	R	N	C
G	N	T	R	M	L	S	A	M	P	L	E	T	E	A
N	O	I	T	O	M	L	A	Y	E	R	H	R	S	R
I	W	O	W	S	E	L	O	H	A	T	A	O	L	F
R	C	N	P	O	W	E	R	E	P	I	P	E	S	L
T	O	I	S	O	T	O	P	E	U	Q	R	O	T	U
S	H	D	E	E	P	S	D	E	N	S	I	T	Y	I
C	H	I	S	E	L	A	N	R	E	T	N	I	E	D

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Alps, Auger, Blade, Chips, Chisel, Climate, Core, Density, Depth, Dimension, Direction, Dissolve, Float, Flow, Fluid, Fracture, Fuel, Holes, Internal, Isotope, Layer, Measure, Motion, Motor, Pipes, Power, Pressure, Pump, Rods, Rotary, Sample, Sensor, Sheets, Slope, Snow, Solar, Solid, Spear, Speed, Steam, String, Temperature, Thermal, Torque, Trip, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Chinstrap

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2019

Opening date: April 29, 2019 Closing date: May 17, 2019

Positions:
(1) Receptionist/Secretary (Saipan)
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Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, May 17, 2019.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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Executive Director

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: **CLIENT ADVOCATE**
PAY-LEVEL: P.L. 22 / STEP 1-10 ($26,665-$41,367)
REPORTS TO: PROGRAM MANAGER

OVERVIEW:

This is a non-exempt position for non-legal advocacy on behalf of clients with disabilities primarily on Saipan which includes direct client representation and general outreach activities in the community. The Client Advocate reports to the Program Manager and works within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures with some latitude for independent action.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ An Associates Degree (A.A. or A.S.) in any related field or no less than 60 credit hours from a post secondary school; and
- ✓ Two (2) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of the work in protection and advocacy systems or other related fields.

HOW TO APPLY:
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Irving, Horford lead Celtics past Bucks in opener

MILWAUKEE (AP) —Al Horford stood his ground as Giannis Antetokounmpo charged his way.

Antetokounmpo, the Milwaukee Bucks' MVP candidate, desperately wanted to provide a spark and cut into a second-half lead against Horford's Boston Celtics in the opener of a second-round playoff series on Sunday. He drove hard into the lane, quickly switched directions and tried to lay the ball up over Horford, who met him at the rim and blocked the shot.

Antetokounmpo corralled the ball and went up a second time only to be met by Horford again, who this time spiked the ball to the court.

The Celtics clamped down on Antetokounmpo all game and cruised past the Bucks, 112-90.

"Our focus was to make sure that we just made it tough on him every time, just making sure he earned everything he got," Horford said. "I felt like we did a pretty good job of that."

Kyrie Irving had 26 points and 11 assists, tying his playoff career high, and Horford added 20 points and 11 rebounds to pace Boston, which controlled the game for long stretches while playing stingy defense against Antetokounmpo.

Jaylen Brown chipped in with 19 points and Gordon Hayward had 13 off the bench for the Celtics.

Antetokounmpo scored 22 points but shot just 7 for 21. He didn't make his first field goal until the first minute of the second quarter.

"It was one of the toughest losses we've ever had, all season, especially at home," Antetokounmpo said.

Game 2 is Tuesday in Milwaukee.

Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer is expecting his star player to bounce back.

"As great as he's been, he hasn't been perfect every night," Budenholzer said. "He's hard on himself, so there will probably be some point where I put my arms around him and tell him, 'You're going to be great.'"

Khris Middleton had 16 for Milwaukee, which completed a four-game sweep of the Detroit Pistons on Monday and advanced to the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2001. The Celtics came off a sweep of their own against Indiana.

The Celtics knocked Milwaukee out of the playoffs in seven games last year, winning the final game at home. This year, Milwaukee is the top seed in the East and has home-court advantage throughout the postseason after posting the NBA's best record, but Boston didn't play like an underdog in any way.

The Celtics jumped out early, leading by as many as 11 in the opening quarter. Boston shot 52% while the Bucks shot only 5 of 19.

The shooting woes continued for the Bucks until midway through the second quarter, when Milwaukee used a 15-0 run to pull even at 40. The teams then traded baskets with the Celtics grabbing a 52-50 lead at the half.

Boston used a 9-0 run in the third quarter to again build a double-digit lead, which grew to as much as 21 as Milwaukee again failed to make shots.

"This is a hard team to play against," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "That wasn't their best game."

Irving thinks the Celtics have been rounding into shape in the playoffs after an uneven regular season.

"We were dealing with our ups and downs, but I think we just have an appreciation for the group that we have," he said.

Meanwhile, Boston players wore a black stripe with the No. 17 on their jerseys to honor Hall of Famer John Havlicek, who died Thursday at the age of 79. The team won eight championships during Havlicek's 16 seasons with the Celtics. Havlicek was the MVP of the 1974 NBA Finals when the Celtics defeated the Bucks in Game 7 at the MECCA in Milwaukee. A moment of silence was held before tipoff.

Marcus Smart traveled to Milwaukee but wasn't in uniform. Smart has been out since suffering a left oblique tear on April 7. Smart has been practicing with the team but isn't expected play in Game 2 either.

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo is fouled during the first half of Game 1 of a second round NBA basketball playoff series against the Boston Celtics Sunday, April 28, 2019, in Milwaukee.

Warriors 104, Rockets 100

In Oakland, Kevin Durant scored 35 points in outdueling James Harden and the Golden State Warriors held off the Houston Rockets in the opener of what is shaping up to be a sensational best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal.

Houston's Chris Paul was ejected with 4.4 seconds left for a second technical. He had rebounded a missed 3-pointer by Harden that could have tied the game with 9 seconds left and was arguing for a foul.

Draymond Green added 14 points, nine assists and nine rebounds for the two-time defending champion Warriors, who are meeting the Rockets in the postseason for the fourth time in five years and with Houston having never been victorious.

Harden scored 35 points and Eric Gordon 27 after both struggled early finding their shooting strokes for the cold-shooting Rockets. They shot 14 for 47 from long range and were without reserve guard Austin Rivers because of an illness.

Harden's three-point play with 40 seconds left pulled Houston within 100-98. Stephen Curry knocked down a 3 on the other end over Nene moments later and finished with 18 points, seven rebounds and four assists.

Durant, who had combined for 95 points the previous two games against the Clippers, shot 11 for 25 and made 12 of 15 free throws in his fifth straight 30-point playoff performance—matching his career-best streak accomplished from June 1-12, 2017.

Technical fouls on Paul and Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni 2.1 seconds apart in the final minute of the third allowed the Warriors to take an 83-76 lead into the final 12 minutes after Durant converted the free throws.

Game 2 is Tuesday night back at Oracle Arena.

Klay Thompson scored 13 points on a sprained right ankle.

Both Curry and Thompson had been listed as questionable nursing tender right ankles after they each sprained them in Game 6 against the Clippers on Friday night. Curry was cleared beforehand but Thompson had to go through warmups before Golden State's medical staff determined he was fine to play.

Coach Steve Kerr went with Andre Iguodala over 7-foot center Andrew Bogut in the starting five to go smaller out of the gates against the Rockets—the group Kerr has called his best lineup.

Iguodala picked up two quick fouls and Kevon Looney entered and made his first three shots.

These West powerhouses fought through a seven-game series in last year's Western Conference finals, when Golden State rallied from a 3-2 deficit to win Game 7 on Houston's home floor.

Paul is on a mission after he sat out the final two games because of an injured right hamstring he hurt in Game 5. He had 17 points Sunday.

The Rockets missed their final 27 3-pointers in the deciding 2018 game and came out cold again.

Lillard time: Blazers guard continues to beat the odds

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — After he made his unforgettable 3-pointer at the buzzer to clinch Portland's first-round series over Oklahoma City, Damian Lillard was mobbed by his teammates.

The television camera moved into the scrum, and Lillard looked directly into the lens. His expression was pure told-you-so.

"Obviously he can score the ball with the best of them. But Dame has a chip on his shoulder, and he has since the day he walked into this league," said Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green. "Just the way he grinds, he played like a guy from Oakland with a chip on his shoulder and a guy who has been doubted forever."

The doubters don't bother the 6-foot-3 Lillard. They seem to motivate him, fuel his hunger to prove them wrong.

He enters the NBA conference semifinals on a roll, as confident as ever.

And it's not just because of the 37-footer that eliminated the Thunder: He had 50 points in last Tuesday's deciding game, a 118-115 Game 5 victory that sent the Blazers through to the Western Conference semifinals for the first time in three seasons. He had 34 points in the first half and finished with 10 3-pointers, second most ever in the playoffs.

He averaged 33 points over the five games against the Thunder, best for a playoff series in franchise history.

He has the Nuggets attention—along with the rest of the NBA.

"Damian Lillard's on a tear right now," Denver's Paul Millsap acknowledged.

Lillard averaged 23.8 points per game to lead the Blazers in the regular season. Portland finished third in the Western Conference with 53 wins for a sixth straight appearance in the playoffs. Lillard has been on each of those teams.

Said teammate Rodney Hood: "It is time to put him up there with the top players in the league. This was icing on the cake. I know he is one of the best players in the league, now this performance will put him on the radar nationally."

It seems the 28-year-old Lillard has spent his entire basketball career off the radar.

"This was not a coming-out party. This is who he is," said Blazers guard Seth Curry. "You watch basketball, you pay attention, you watch highlights, you know who he is as a player. He has done this all year and he's been doing this every year.

Pujols passes Bonds, as Angels top Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Albert Pujols opened the weekend by passing Lou Gehrig on the career RBIs list and ended it by moving past Barry Bonds.

Pujols' go-ahead, two-run double in the first inning Sunday started the Los Angeles Angels to a 7-3 win over the Kansas City Royals.

He pulled a fastball from Homer Bailey (2-3) just past third baseman Kelvin Gutierrez. Pujols has 1,997 RBIs and trails only Hank Aaron (2,297) and Alex Rodriguez (2,086) in RBIs, which became an official statistic in 1920.

Pujols did not speak with reporters after the game.

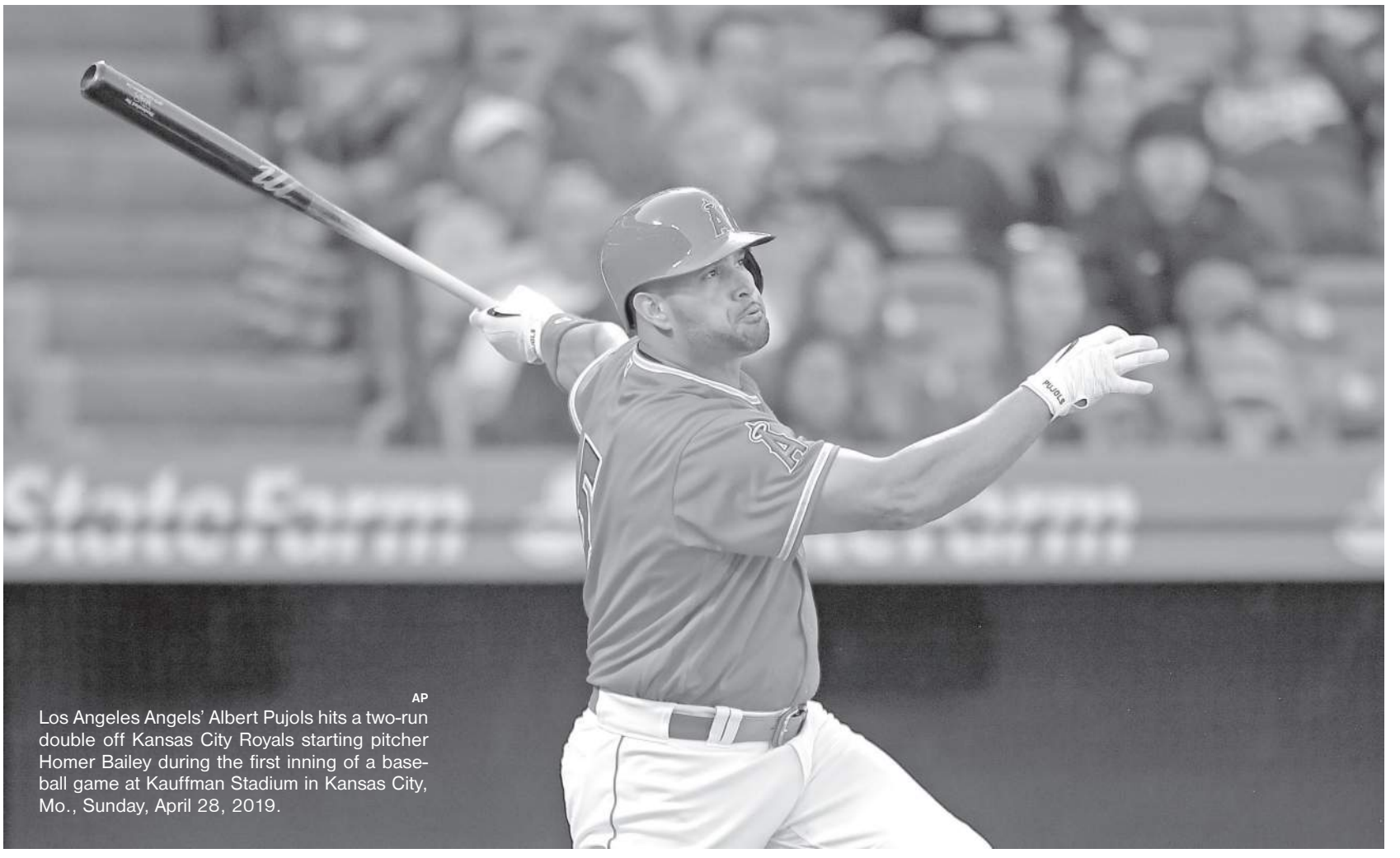
"He's had an unbelievable career," Angels manager Brad Ausmus said. "He continues to add onto it."

Matt Harvey (1-2) got his first win with the Angels, allowing one run and two hits in seven innings.

"I thought he picked up where he left off in his last inning of his last outing," Ausmus said. "He was aggressive. He attacked the hitters. His stuff was good. He threw some really good changeups and curveballs."

Harvey lowered his ERA from 8.03 to 6.54 as the Angels won a road series for the first time this season.

"The big thing was putting together a decent start from the last outing. I was trying to keep that going. The thought crept into my head early this morning," Harvey said. "I used that as energy to stay focused and keep my attention. I wasn't striking out the world, but the guys were making plays behind me. I knew, especially with the wind blowing in, that I could attack the zone.



AP

Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols hits a two-run double off Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Homer Bailey during the first inning of a baseball game at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, April 28, 2019.

Rays 5, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Chris Sale remained winless in six starts this season, giving up Daniel Robertson's two-run homer in the first inning and Yandy Diaz's two-run triple in the second as the Red Sox lost to the Tampa Bay Rays.

Sale (0-5) gave up four runs—two earned—four hits and three walks in seven innings with eight strikeouts. After signing a $160 million, six-year contract in spring training, the 30-year-old lefthander gas a 6.40 ERA.

Tyler Glasnow (5-0) gave up two runs and five hits in 6 2/3 innings with nine strikeouts. Tampa Bay improved to a major league-best 18-9 and has won eight of nine series this year.

Yankees 11, Giants 5

In San Francisco, DJ LeMahieu and Gio Urshela became the latest Yankees to get hurt as New York completed a three-game sweep.

LeMahieu was removed in the bottom of the third because of right knee inflammation caused by fouling a pitch off his leg Friday, and Urshela left after he was hit on his left hand by an 88.5-mph cutter from Nick Vincent in the fifth. The Yankees said X-rays on both players were negative.

Gary Sanchez and Gleyber Torres hit two-run homers as the Yankees built an 8-0 lead to back Domingo German (5-1), who took a shutout into the sixth before tiring and tied for the major league lead in wins.

Dodgers 7, Pirates 6

In Los Angeles, Max Muncy singled home the tying run in the fifth inning and the go-ahead run off Richard Rodriguez (0-2) in the seventh as the Dodgers rallied from a 5-1 deficit and completed a three-game sweep.

Rich Hill made his season debut after recovering from a sprained right knee and allowed five runs—just one earned—and five hits in six innings.

Cody Bellinger hit his 14th homer, matching Albert Pujols (2006), Alex Rodriguez (2007) and Christian Yelich (this year) for the most home runs before the end of the season's first full month. Bellinger had three RBIs and leads the major leagues with a .427 average and 36 RBIs.

Twins 4, Orioles 1

In Minneapolis, Max Kepler led off against Dylan Bundy (0-4) with his fourth home run of the series, Byron Buxton also homered and Minnesota swept its six-game season series against Baltimore.

Minnesota hit 23 home runs in the series. Baltimore has given up 71 homers in 29 games; St. Louis was second in the majors with 51.

Kyle Gibson (2-0) gave up three hits in seven innings, and Blake Parker finished a four-hitter for his fifth save.

Blue Jays 5, Athletics 4, 11 innings

In Toronto, Brandon Drury hit a tying three-run homer off Blake Treinen (1-2) in the 11th inning, Justin Smoak following with a game-winning single and the Blue Jays finished a six-game season sweep of Oakland,

Oakland took a 4-1 lead in the 11th when Ramon Laureano hit a sacrifice fly off Thomas Pannone, Josh Phegley followed with an RBI double and Elvis Luciano (1-0) hit Matt Chapman on the left side with a pitch with the bases loaded. Luciano got his first major league win.

Mets 5, Brewers 2

In New York, reigning NL MVP Christian Yelich left in the fifth with low back discomfort, and Mets star Robinson Cano exited in the first after being hit by a pitch on his left hand.

Yelich likely will get at least one game off. X-rays on Cano were negative, but New York will send him for further testing Monday.

J.D. Davis had a tiebreaking pinch-hit single in the seventh off Alex Claudio after Amed Rosario reached when Yelich's replacement, Ben Gamel, dropped his flyball to right off Jacob Barnes (1-1).

Nationals 7, Padres 6

In Washington, Matt Adams homered off Matt Wisler (1-1) leading off the 11th, his third career walk-off homer, as the Nationals overcame a 6-0 deficit.

Carter Kieboom, Victor Robles and Juan Soto homered for Washington. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, it was the first time three teammates under the age of 22 homered in the same game. Soto is 20, while Kieboom and Robles are 21.

San Diego shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. left in the 10th with a hamstring injury after he did an awkward-looking split while trying to stretch for a throw at second base.

Astros 4, Indians 1

In Houston, Robinson Chirinos hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in a four-run seventh inning to give the Astros a win over Cleveland.

The Astros were unable to do much against Carlos Carrasco (2-3) early and had just one hit when former Indian Michael Brantley singled with one out in the seventh. Yuli Gurriel then hit a two-out, two-strike RBI double to end a streak of 17 scoreless innings for Carrasco.

The Indians intentionally walked Josh Reddick before Chirinos sent the next pitch over the train tracks atop the wall in left field.

The Astros won the final two games to earn a split of the four-game set with Cleveland, a rematch of last year's AL Division Series in which Houston earned a three-game sweep. Houston also moved into first place in the AL West.

Cubs 6, Diamondbacks 5, 15 innings

In Phoenix, Ben Zobrist lined a two-run double in the 15th inning, and the Cubs outlasted Arizona in the second-longest game in Chase Field history.

After escaping a jam in the 14th inning, Tyler Chatwood (1-0) sparked the decisive sequence with a one-out double. Albert Almora Jr. followed with a single up the middle and both scored on Zobrist's double to the corner in right off Matt Andriese (3-2).

Kris Bryant followed with a sacrifice fly to put Chicago up 6-3.

Kyle Ryan gave up Caleb Joseph's two-run single in the bottom half before Allen Webster got Nick Ahmed to fly out at the warning track for his first career save.

The game lasted 5 hours, 36 minutes—10 minutes short of the longest at Chase Field.

Braves 8, Rockies 7

In Atlanta, Josh Donaldson overcame a 7-5 deficit with a three-run homer in the eighth off Seunghwan Oh (1-1)—the Braves' fourth home run of the game.

Jacob Webb (1-0) got the final out in the eighth, and Luke Jackson earned his first save when Nolan Arenado flied out with two on and David Dahl grounded out.

Phillies 5, Marlins 1

In Phildadelphia, Zach Eflin (3-3) threw a seven-hitter, the first complete game for the Phillies pitcher since September 2017.

Jean Segura had three of just four hits overall for Philadelphia, including an RBI triple. Pablo Lopez (2-4) gave up four runs in 5 2/3 innings.

White Sox 4, Tigers 1

In Chicago, Reynaldo Lopez (2-3) struck out a career-high 14 and allowed two hits and an unearned run over six innings as the White Sox completed a rain-shortened two-game sweep.

Welington Castillo went 2 for 4 with two RBIs, and Leury Garcia and Yolmer Sanchez each drove in a run. Alex Colome got three outs for his fifth save.

Matthew Boyd (2-2) gave up two runs in six innings for Detroit, which has lost four straight.

Cardinals 5, Reds 2

In St. Louis, Jack Flaherty (3-1) gave up four hits in seven scoreless innings, and Yadier Molina drove in three runs as the Cardinals won for the seventh time in eight games. John Gant retired Derek Dietrich with a man on for his second save.

Sonny Gray (0-4) allowed two runs and three hits in five innings.

Rangers 14, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Elvis Andrus, Hunter Pence, Logan Forsythe and Shin-Soo Choo homered to back Lance Lynn (3-2), who allowed one run over seven innings.

Andrus and Pence homered off Eric Swanson (0-3) during a four-run third.

Woods out, McIlroy and other big names in

NORTH CAROLINA—Tiger Woods won't play this week's Wells Fargo Championship, but there's plenty of big names in the field at Quail Hollow to keep your attention.

Phil Mickelson, Rickie Fowler, Justin Rose and Rory McIlroy are all back in action for the first time since the Masters. McIlroy historically has played well at Quail Hollow, breaking his own course record in 2015 when he shot a 11-under 61 in the third round. His total of 21-under 267 set a tournament record as he won by seven shots. He is the only player to win at Charlotte twice (2010) and tied for second in 2012.

Jason Day, who missed the cut along with playing partner Adam Scott at the Zurich Classic, returns to Charlotte as the defending champion. Day entered the final round of the 2018 Wells Fargo with a two-shot lead that disappeared when he put his tee shot on No. 14 in the water and bogeyed the hole. He made two clutch birdies on the 16th and 17th and went on to win by two.

With his 12th PGA Tour victory, Day took some satisfaction in the way he was able to fight after giving up a lead.

"I had no idea where the ball was going today, especially off the tee," Day said last year after beating Nick Watney and Aaron Wise by two. "I missed a lot of fairways, missed a lot of greens. My short game stood the test, which was nice. This was probably one of the best wins I've ever had just because of how hard everything was today."

Ten of the Top 25 in the Official World Golf Ranking (as of Sunday, April 28) will compete in Charlotte: No. 2. Rose, No. 4 McIlroy, No. 10 Fowler, No. 13 Paul Casey, No. 14 Day, No. 15 Tony Finau, No, 19 Patrick Reed, No. 20 Webb Simpson, No. 23 Mickelson and No. 24 Gary Woodland. No. 5 Justin Thomas withdrew with a wrist injury.

AP

Rory McIlroy from Northern Ireland plays a shot on the 16th hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, April 12, 2019, in Augusta, Ga.

Palmer, Rahm win PGA Tour Zurich Classic

In Louisiana, Ryan Palmer had to find a teammate if he was going to get back to New Orleans, one of his favorite PGA Tour stops for reasons ranging from the food to his friendship with Saints coach Sean Payton.

Palmer's past partner at the Zurich Classic team event, Jordan Spieth, had changed his schedule and was taking the week off, and Palmer knew Jon Rahm's previous teammate, Wesley Bryan, couldn't play because of shoulder surgery. So Palmer reached out to Rahm, unsure if a 24-year-old Spaniard wanted anything to do with a Texan nearly two decades his senior.

The odd couple from different continents and generations combined for a 3-under 69 in the alternate-shot final round Sunday to win the tour's only team event by three strokes over Sergio Garcia and Tommy Fleetwood.

"I shot him a text, hoping he would bite," Palmer recalled. "When a 42-year-old player is calling him, he's probably like, 'Why does he want to play with me?' But he accepted and what an awesome week."

The victory was the fourth on the tour for Palmer, but first in nearly a decade. Having last won in 2010 at the Sony Open in Hawaii, Palmer waved and gave a thumbs-up as he walked up the 18th fairway with a throng of fans applauding the impending triumph.

"It was nice playing the last hole with a three-shot lead. That's for sure," Palmer said.

Rahm took his third PGA Tour victory—one each in his first three seasons. He finished in the top 10 for the seventh time this year, including a tie for ninth at the Masters a couple weeks earlier.

"When Wesley told me he was having shoulder surgery a few months before the event, I was in no-man's land," Rahm recalled.

"I'm really happy I said yes" to Palmer's proposal to team-up, Rahm continued. "I can say to Jordan and Wesley: 'Sorry, we already have a partner for next year.'"

No Madrid, no Ronaldo: Fresh feel for Champions League semis

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—There's a fresh feel to the lineup for the Champions League semifinals this season, even if it contains some of the most storied teams and recognized players in Europe.

This time there's no Real Madrid, the three-time defending champion and Europe's dominant team of this generation.

There's no Cristiano Ronaldo, the superstar forward who has virtually made this competition his own in recent years.

And there's no Juventus, Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid — frequent last-four representatives of late.

Instead, the survivors this year in the biggest club competition in world soccer are a surprise package from England, a blast from the past from the Netherlands, and two more aristocrats of the European game looking to end lean spells in the Champions League—by their lofty standards, anyway.

Few could have foreseen one of the semifinal matchups being Tottenham vs Ajax.

Tottenham hasn't bought a player in the last two transfer windows, needed a last-gasp draw at Barcelona's Camp Nou to get out of its group, and has beaten Borussia Dortmund and Manchester City to reach its first European Cup semifinal in 57 years.

Hailing from the largely ignored Dutch league, Ajax is back in the semis for the first time since 1997 and seeking a fifth European Cup title— and first since 1995. Much like Monaco two seasons ago, Ajax has emerged from nowhere to stun some of the top teams on the continent, its youth-filled team beating Madrid and Juventus—Ronaldo's past and present teams—in the knockout stage.

The other semifinal is just as intriguing and features teams expected to get this far.

However, it remains something of a mystery as to why Barcelona—led by Lionel Messi—has only made it to the last four once in the previous five years. That was in 2015, the year it won the title for the fifth time.

Liverpool is also a five-time European champion and a power again in the English Premier League under Juergen Klopp. It is a second straight year in the semifinals for a team that has such a special relationship with this competition, yet before last season its most recent last-four appearance was in 2007.

Tottenham vs Ajax

There has been a sharp contrast in the build-up to the game for the two teams.

Ajax's players had their feet up at the weekend after all fixtures in the Dutch top flight were canceled in an effort to help the team stay fresh for the semifinal. The Amsterdam club will go into the first leg on Tuesday on the back of a seven-day rest.

As for Tottenham, manager Mauricio Pochettino played a close-to-full-strength team in a 1-0 defeat against West Ham in the Premier League on Saturday, with injuries limiting his ability to rotate amid a grueling schedule of games every three or four days. Spurs have yet to seal a top-four finish in the league, which guarantees a return to the Champions League next season.

Tottenham heads into the first leg at its newly built 1 billion-pound stadium with striker Harry Kane, midfielder Harry Winks and winger Erik Lamela among those injured, forward Heung-min Son suspended, and a big doubt over the fitness of increasingly influential midfielder Moussa Sissoko.

"We are competing with circumstances that are not the best," Pochettino said.

Ajax beat both Madrid and Juventus away in the knockout stage.

Ajax and Tottenham last met in European competition in 1981, in the first round of the European Cup Winners' Cup, with Tottenham winning.

Barcelona vs Liverpool

The matches will see Luis Suarez and Philippe Coutinho come up against Liverpool, where they were stars before joining Barcelona.

Suarez played four seasons in England before making the move to Spain in 2014, while Coutinho spent six seasons with Liverpool before a high-profile and drawn-out transfer to the Spanish powerhouse last year.

While Suarez has thrived with Barcelona after leaving Liverpool, becoming the perfect foil for Lionel Messi in attack, Coutinho is yet to show the same form that made him a key player for the English club. The Brazil playmaker hasn't been a regular starter for Barcelona and has been jeered occasionally by parts of the crowd at Camp Nou Stadium.

Barcelona has no fresh injuries to report following a weekend in which it won the Spanish league for the 26th time.

Liverpool is locked in a title race in the Premier League, one point behind Man City with two games to go. That means Klopp hasn't been able to rest players—unlike his counterpart at Barca, Ernesto Valverde—and he played a virtually full-strength team on Friday in a 5-0 win over Huddersfield.

Roberto Firmino missed that game with a groin injury and the Brazil striker remains a doubt for the first leg against Barcelona on Wednesday.

Liverpool and Barcelona last met in the Champions League in 2007, with Liverpool advancing on away goals in the Round of 16. Liverpool has won all three of the teams' two-legged European encounters.

Cowboys bolster depth after Cooper trade

TEXAS—The Dallas Cowboys entered the 2019 NFL draft with Amari Cooper as their de facto first-round selection and a haul of free-agency veterans that enabled them to draft largely for value over position.

The team emerges with eight more selections who illustrate the franchise's commitment to winning at the line of scrimmage and bolster depth at positions where starters' contracts soon expire. After selecting two fifth-round Miami defenders named Jackson and an early round offensive lineman named Connor for the second year, Cowboys executive vice president Stephen Jones postured confidently about the roster.

"We have as deep a roster as we've had in terms of competition from the top to the bottom," Jones said.

Dallas opened the draft quietly on Thursday. The team didn't trade up to regain a selection higher than pick 58. Twenty-four draft selections without a receiver—and only three receivers taken in the top 50 selections—lent further credibility to their investment in the three-time Pro Bowler Cooper.

By the time the Cowboys were on the clock just after 9 p.m. ET on Friday, many anticipated the team would grab one of the remaining safeties from its 30 pre-draft visits. Instead, the Cowboys selected Central Florida defensive tackle Trysten Hill at 58 and Penn State offensive lineman Connor McGovern at 90.

A safety spot that Cowboys brass last week admitted has the fewest resources invested in didn't officially get help until Round 6, with Texas A&M safety Donovan Wilson. But Dallas viewed its strategy otherwise. The team drafted Miami cornerback Michael Jackson in Round 5, 158th overall, for secondary support. Hill joins defensive ends Joe Jackson (Miami, Round 5/165) and Jalen Jelks (Oregon, Round 7/241) as upgrades to Rod Marinelli's homegrown defensive line. Improve the line, owner/general manager Jerry Jones said, and the secondary improves.

AP

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Amari Cooper (19) prepares to make the catch as Seattle Seahawks free safety Tedric Thompson (33) looks on during the second half of the NFC wild-card NFL football game, in Arlington, Texas, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019.

"Disrupting the passer helps make safeties play better," Jones said Friday night. "It makes it easier for them to do their thing, easier to cover, easier for the quarterback to not be as accurate, easier for the quarterback to have to throw quicker, easier for the quarterback to have to disrupt the plans of the offense.

"When you can rush and disrupt, which is what we think [Hill's] game is, is where it starts."

Hill recorded 71 tackles, including 20 for loss and six sacks, across three seasons at Central Florida. He collected a career-high 36 total tackles in 2018 even after losing his starting role following a coaching change. Hill started every game during Central Florida's undefeated 2017 season in which the Knights crowned themselves national champions.

And Hill is among members of this draft class who will have the opportunity to prove themselves in a lineup full of players whose contracts expire after 2019. Hill could succeed 2016 third-round selection Maliek Collins, who has started 45 of 48 games the last three seasons. At cornerback, Michael Jackson enters a room where Byron Jones hasn't missed a start in three years and Anthony Brown has posted 30 starts. Each has one year remaining on his contract. Jones, named to his first Pro Bowl in 2018, also is recovering from offseason hip surgery.

The Cowboys know they can't keep each of their drafted talents in the coming years. Dallas opened April signing pass rusher DeMarcus Lawrence, their 2014 second-round selection, to a five-year, $105 million contract with $67 million guaranteed. Cap space quickly tightens as mega-extensions loom for Prescott at quarterback, Cooper at receiver and likely Elliott at running back. McGovern, who blocked for Saquon Barkley at Penn State, could ensure the offensive line remains Dallas' strength when La'el Collins' contract expires after 2019. The Cowboys saw how their line's production could dip when all-pro center Travis Frederick missed 2018 with an autoimmune disease.

GCA

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points in the first quarter. Ryan Daproza added 4 markers off fastbreak layups, while Railee Yumul and Justin Du netted a field goal apiece for the Eagles' early double-digit lead, 14-2. The only response SDA had for GCA was a putback from Kaito Recucher.

The Guardians' offense turned from bad to worse, as they were silenced by the Eagles' defense in the second period, where the latter stretched their lead to 18. Juruel Magtalas drilled two 15-foot jumpers and Steven Adriatico nailed the other basket for GCA in the second canto.

With the game firmly in the Eagles' control, coach Genesis Prieto had the luxury of resting most of his starters. Kaito Rechucher and Tommy Jin then took advantage of the miscues GCA reserves made, as the former scored 10 points and the latter logged 6 markers in the last two quarters. However, despite SDA's better showing in the second half, the Eagles' lead in the first was more than enough to propel them to victory.

Meanwhile, GCA also won in the girls division match, 32-22.

Katriel Saures had her way on the offensive end for the Lady Eagles, as she finished with a game-high 16 points. Azriel Fatialofa also contributed in the victory, as she towered above her defenders and registered 11 points off her baskets in the paint. Marielle Lopez led SDA with her 12 markers.

GCA notched its second win after five matches, while the Lady Guardians stumbled to a 1-5 card.

In other results, Saipan Community School built on its success early in the first quarter to defeat host Saipan International School in As Lito, 42-34.

Charlie McDonald paced the Tsunamis in the first quarter with his 8 points, while Miles Timmons took over in the third, dropping 8 markers. Daniel Nam had 12 points on a losing effort for the Geckos, while Danny Lee and Dylan Mister chipped in 9 and 6, respectively.

SCS now holds a 3-5 record, while SIS suffered its second straight loss and dropped to a 5-4 mark.

Over at the Koblerville Gymnasium, Mount Carmel School routed Northern Marianas International School, 38-14.

The Knights and Phoenix had a 12-12 stalemate when the first half wrapped up before the former turned it up on both ends of the floor in the second for the 24-point win.

O'hane Borja and Raphael Galang scored 15 and 9 points, respectively, for MCS, while Justin Mateo logged 6 markers for NMIS.

The Knights now have a 7-1 slate, while the latter backpedaled to a 2-7 record.

Boys Division

GCA 32—Lerio 8, Daproza 6, Justin Du 4, Magtalas 4, Adriatico 2, Alepuyo 2, Saures 2, Yumul 2.

SDA 20—Kaito Rechucher 12, Jin 6, Han 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-2, 20-2, 24-6, 32-20

SCS 42—McDonald 18, Timmons 10, Aleksenko 8, Borja 2, Diaz 2, Kang 2

SIS 34—Nam 12, Lee 9, Mister 6, Xue 3, Gregoire 2, Sosa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-6, 20-13, 34-22, 42-34

MCS 38—Borja 15, Galang 9, Naraja 4, San Nicolas 4, Cepeda 2, Manning 2, Regalado 2, Sasamoto 2.

NMIS 14—Mateo 6, Pineda 4, Balgos 2, Valdoz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-4, 12-12, 22-14, 38-14

Girls Division

GCA 32—Saures 16, Fatialofa 11, Lamar 5, Camacho 2.

SDA 22—Lopez 12, Leonna Li 4, Buan 2, Park 2, Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-4, 14-10, 25-14, 32-22

MPU

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goals in a span of two minutes to frustrate TanHoldings and secure the crown early.

Joshua Abragan connected off a direct kick in the 66th minute with the ball rolling down to his left, avoiding four TanHoldings defenders who formed a wall, anticipating a loop from the MP United player, and catching goalie Jamin Elliot off guard.

Abragan's equalizer would have been enough for MP United to bag the division crown, but still the back-to-back champions went for the kill and won the tightly contested game off Sunjoon Tenorio's dagger.

Two minutes after Abragan knocked in the direct kick, Tenorio drilled the go-ahead. The MP United strike was left on a one-on-one play against Elliot after receiving a pass from Kaden Church. Elliot gambled on moving in, as he slid and partially deflected the ball after Tenorio's kick. However, the leather, instead of moving out of the box, rolled closer and Tenorio leapt and avoided collision with Elliot, who was still down, and went for another shot to put MP United on top.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United Football Club's Sunjoon Tenorio, left, jumps over TanHoldings goalie Jamin Elliot to score the go-ahead goal in the second half of their boys U18 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MP United hung on to the shaky lead, while TanHoldings attempted to equalize on several occasions, but failed to hit its target.

After getting its seventh win in as many games, MP United will go for another undefeated record on May 16 when it plays it last game of the season against the CNMI U15. MP United was unbeaten in the 2018 spring season after earning a 7-1-0 mark. TanHoldings, on the other hand, may have to settle for a runner-up finish for the second straight season provided it prevails against Matansa (3-0-3) on May 10.

CNMI U15 2, Matansa 0

The CNMI U15 avoided a winless season after outclassing Matansa in the other game in the division last Friday.

Jim Maniago and Brian Lubao scored the two goals for the CNMI U15, which dropped its first five games before downing Matansa. Maniago hit the board in the seventh minute, while Lubao had his goal in the 30th.

The CNMI U15 will have two more games, as it faces Kanoa on May 10 and MP United in a rescheduled match on May 16.

PUBLIC

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the different events.

WSR has the most qualifiers in the softball throw with Rhia Hernandez, Zaria Camacho, and Aubrey Castro making the grade in the series of trials last month. In the long jump, Kagman dominated the field with its five qualifiers—Tsudomiko Joab, Tina Chipwelong, Aaliyah Cosmes, Paige Blanco, and Joelene Cabrera. Kagman also led the way in the 200m run with four qualifiers, while Cabrera, Blanco, and Cosmes will run, too, in the 100m finals for the Marlins.

In the boys division, Koblerville has three students on the finalists list in the 400m run with Ashley Kasian and Jellydia and Jellydiah Hong qualifying, while the remaining running events will be an open race among private and public schools.

In the boys division, the 60m run has qualifiers from seven schools with San Vicente the only one with two entries. Students from eight schools will race in the 100m and 200m events, while WSR has seven qualifiers in the three remaining running contests (400m, 800m, and 1,500m).

Mt. Carmel, WSR, and SCS each have two students on the finalists list in the long jump, while Koblerville has three in the softball throw.

Irving, Horford lead Celtics past Bucks in opener

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Pujols passes Bonds, as Angels top Royals

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MPU clinches U18 crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club successfully defended its boys U18 title after nosing out Tan-Holdings, 2-1, in its penultimate game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The close victory gave MP United a 7-0-0 win-draw-loss record with one game left (versus the CNMI Boys U15 National Team) in its schedule. The division championship is given to the team with the best record at the end of the double-round robin regular season and the Eric Abragan-coached squad is ahead by three wins against Tan-Holdings (4-0-3).

Going into the pivotal match, Tan-Holdings was hoping for a win to remain in the hunt for the division title. A goal from Mark Esalan off a rebound in the 43rd minute boosted TanHoldings' bid for an upset. However, MP United delivered a pair of

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United Football Club's Kaden Church goes for a header during the second half of their boys U18 division game against Tan-Holdings FC in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Public schools deliver in qualifiers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School, Kagman, and Koblerville got more than 10 qualifying slots each in the U9 age group competition of the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

The Kingfishers bagged the most berths in the All Schools meet that will be held on May 3 and 4 at the Oleai Sports Complex after earning 12 in the girls trials and 10 in the boys division. The Marlins collected 17 (15 in the girls), while the Umangs were given 14 (10 in the girls division). Other schools that will be fielding students in the 60m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1,500m runs, long jump, and softball throw were Brilliant Star School (11), Saipan International School (9), San Vicente (8), Mt. Carmel School (7), Agape Christian School (6), and Saipan Community School (4). The qualifiers list is still subject to changes, pending confirmation from the organizing PSS and Northern Marianas Athletics and coaches/representatives of the participating schools. Rota and Tinian also have one entry each in

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Runners compete in the 1,500m qualifying race for the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last month at the Oleai Sports Complex.

GCA sweeps SDA

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Grace Christian Academy is back on track after defeating the Seventh Day Adventist, 32-20, in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League yesterday at SDA's court.

The Eagles, who dropped back-to-back games, banked on their 20-2 scoring run in the first half to improve their record to 4-4. The Guardians, on the other hand, fell to a 2-8 card.

Lance Lerio anchored GCA's strong start, as he accounted for half of the team's 12

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ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Grace Christian Academy's Justin Du pulls up for a shot against the Seventh Day Adventist defenders during their middle school game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the SDA court in Chalan Kiya.